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Fifth GCC-EU Meeting of Foreign Ministers Opens

Saudi Minister, GCC Official Speak

LD0805101694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0941 GMT 8 May 94

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 8 May (KUNA)—Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign affairs minister, stressed that the only way to confront the dangers posed by the Iraqi regime to the whole region and to its people lies "in the complete and comprehensive implementation of the Security Council's resolutions" in connection with its invasion of the State of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Prince Sa'ud was addressing the 5th meeting between the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] foreign affairs ministers and the EU counterparts, which opened today.

Karlos Papoulias, Greek foreign minister and head of the European side, also delivered a similar speech in which he dealt with the peace process in the Middle East, the situation in former Yugoslavia, and cooperation between the two sides in the economic sphere.

In his address, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stressed the GCC states' eagerness to bolster security and stability in the Gulf region and guarantee the safety of navigation in their waters. He expressed hope that political statements by Iranian officials expressing wishes to develop Iran's relations with the GCC states, would be accompanied, on the ground, by policies compatible with those wishes.

Prince Sa'ud said he looked forward to a positive reply from the republic of Iran [as received] to the initiative made by the president of the United Arab Emirates in order to solve the dispute over the three islands [Abu Musa, Greater Tumb, and Lesser Tumb].

In his address, Prince Sa'ud called upon the Yemeni leaderships to resort to self-restraint, stop the fighting, avoid bloodshed and pursue means of dialogue to solve their bloody conflict.

He also called for the use of the recent Israeli-Palestinian agreement to achieve a real progress in all other bilateral talks, particularly the Syrian and the Lebanese tracks.

He added that any fundamental progress in the bilateral talks would help achieve tangible progress in the multilateral talks; this will accordingly help achieve the set goal for the peace process: a just, comprehensive and permanent peace in the Middle East.

In his address, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal dwelt on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and called on the European Union, to which he attributed a particular responsibility due to its geographic location, to take necessary measures to guarantee the security and safety of all other areas following the example of Sarajevo.

Prince Sa'ud called on the United Nations to take all the measures to prevent rewarding the Serbs for their aggression and called for the need to lift the arms embargo on the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to allow it to exert it legitimate right to self-defense.

Regarding economic cooperation between the GCC and the EU, Prince Sau'd expressed hope that the recommendations submitted to the meeting by the joint cooperation committee, particularly the intertwined issues of energy and environment, would help drawing defined ideas to implement the contents of the joint report in the form of recommendations in order to achieve the goals included in the cooperation agreement concluded between the two sides in 1988.

[Passage omitted] On his part, the Greek foreign affairs minister, Karlos Papoulias, affirmed the EU's support for the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement which was recently signed in Cairo.

[Passage omitted] Minister Papoulias expressed worry over the continuation of the Yugoslav crisis and renewed the community's commitment to exert more efforts for achieving just and permanent peace.

On the economic side, the Greek minister welcomed the agreement reached by the GCC finance ministers on unifying customs tariff among their countries, a matter which would facilitate the start of a joint trade agreement between the European Community and GCC countries.

He said that the recommendations of the team which is made up of representatives from the two sides on energy and environmental issues would help [the two sides] to overstep the differences in the points of view in these fields.

Papoulias asked the Gulf states for more commitment to protect the environment as a step towards participating in achieving an international strategy for this purpose.

Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi, GCC secretary-general, delivered a speech in which he reviewed what the GCC has been achieved since the fourth meeting, pointing out that the Council has continued its march among the member countries in the political, economic, military, and security spheres rapidly and continuously.

He pointed out that the private sector's contribution in the economic sphere of the economies of the GCC countries has increased, and that the growth of the non-oil production sectors has continued.

He pointed out that the council has adopted a number of decisions, among which was the creation of a trade arbitration center for the Council's countries for settling trade and investment disputes and facilitating the movement and exchange of commodities and services.

He added that there were also directives to speed up the efforts aimed at reaching an agreement on the unified customs tariff.

In his turn, Shaykh Muhammad Bin Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign affairs minister of the State of Bahrain,

emphasized that the Gulf-European meeting convened in Riyad acquired extreme importance which reflected the nature of the period in which it was held and expressed its aims in developing and strengthening coordination and political and economic cooperation between the council's countries and the EU.

He said in a speech delivered at the economic discussions of the fifth joint meeting of the GCC and EU countries that the consecutive regional and international transformations and changes the world was witnessing called for the intensification of the dialogue and the exchange of opinions and expertise in order to deal with these changes and transformations which resulted from the ending of the cold war period, the comprehensive change in the map of international relations and the establishment of the new world order.

He referred to the negotiation rounds between the GCC and EU countries and said that despite the correspondences or differences in the points of view accompanying such rounds on a number of political and economic issues, the continued objective dialogue has achieved positive interconnection and widened the area of agreement for achieving a cooperative and coordinated platform.

He expressed the hope that this would in the end lead to an agreement for setting up the free trade zone between the two groups [GCC and EU] to safeguard their joint interests, particularly after some GCC countries have signed the GATT agreement.

More on Saudi Minister's Remarks

LD0805231194 Riyadh SPA in English 1958 GMT 8 May 94

[Excerpts] Riyadh, May 8, SPA—The fifth session of the joint ministerial council of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Union (EU) started here on Sunday [8 May] under the co-chairmanship of Prince Al Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister and Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, the head of the EU Ministerial Council. [passage omitted]

Prince Al Sa'ud told the participants that after three years of Kuwait's liberation, the Iraqi regime continues to delay implementation of basic elements of the Security Council resolutions pertaining to its aggression on Kuwait. And the Iraqi regime continues to deal selectively with its obligations towards the resolutions of the international legality which constitute a unified package.

"At a time when the Iraqi regime concentrates efforts to show some cooperation with the U.N. inspectors of weapons of the mass destruction in an attempt to give an impression of a limited kind of response to some demands of the Security Council resolutions as justification for lifting economic sanctions imposed on it, it is important to recall that the core of the conflict is the Iraqi regime's non-respect for the sovereignty and independence of Kuwait, which constitutes the core of the resolutions of the international legality. Moreover, the Iraqi regime continues to oppose Resolution 833 on the recognition of international borders' demarcation," Prince Al Sa'ud said.

Prince Al Sa'ud regretted that the Iraqi regime is still detaining the Kuwaiti prisoners of war and captives of other nationals and refraining from paying legal compensations for damages caused by its aggression.

"The only possible and open way to confront the dangers posed by this regime is to bring about full and comprehensive compliance of the resolutions of the Security Council," the Saudi foreign minister said.

Prince Al Sa'ud expressed deep anxiety over the sufferings of the brotherly Iraqi people triggered by the oppressive practices of the Iraqi regime and expressed full sympathy with them.

He demanded that the Iraqi regime should comply with the Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 dealing with the humanitarian, food and medicines needs of the Iraqi people and held the Iraqi regime fully responsible for the humanitarian plight sustained by the Iraqi people.

Concerning relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Prince Al Sa'ud made it clear that the GCC states have a keen interest to maintain peace and stability in the Gulf region and ensure guarantees of navigation in the Gulf. "We are always working for the realisation of cordial and constructive relations with Iran based on good neighbourly ties, mutual respect and non-intervention in the domestic affairs, respect for the sovereignty and independence of all states and their territorial integration.

"While, we hear of the statements of the Iranian officials on a similar desire for developing cordial relations with us, yet we hope that such statements would be accompanied with practical policies to harmonize such a desire into reality. And, in this context, we notice with grave deploration the continuation of the conflict between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran on the three Emirate islands. And it is hoped that the welfare initiative offered by the UAE's President Sheykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al-Nuhayyan for settling the issue of the three islands through direct talks would be [word indistinct] to cut short his visit and return to the kingdom to remain under orders of custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al'Aziz and Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, who are engaged in continuous contacts with their Arab colleagues to save Yemen from the crisis.

He called on the Yemeni brothers to come together and resolve their problems with amicable and peaceful means.

Communique Issued at End of Meeting

LD0805230094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1843 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Riyadh, 8 May (KUNA)—The foreign ministers of the European Union [EU] and their GCC [Gulf

Cooperation Council] counterparts have renewed their emphasis that the complete and quick implementation by the Iraqi regime of all UN Security Council resolutions remains a precondition to the establishment of peace and stability in the Gulf region.

In a communique released at the end of their meetings here today, the ministers condemned the Iraqi regime for not fully implementing the Security Council's resolution, and for pursuing a selective policy in implementing those resolutions.

The ministers stressed the importance they attach to the full and unconditional abidance of the Iraqi regime by Resolution 687, its immediate release of all Kuwaiti and other POWs and hostages from its prisons and detention camps, the dismantling of mass destruction weapons, and the payment of full compensation for the losses and damages caused by its aggression on the State of Kuwait.

The ministers renewed their support of the Security Council's Resolution 833 that stresses the inviolability of the international borders of the State of Kuwait and endorses the final report by the UN Commission on the demarcation of the international Iraqi-Kuwaiti boundaries.

The communique included an appeal to the parties in Yemen for self-restraint, halting the fighting, and to resort to reason and dialogue.

In their communique, the ministers stressed the importance of "the stability of international energy markets and the realization of equilibrium between supply and demand in the interest of the producers and consumers alike, and to facilitate investments in the field of energy."

In their statement, the ministers urged Iran to respond to an initiative by UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan al-Nuhayyan to resolve the dispute peacefully through negotiations and in line with international law.

The communique welcomed the Gaza-Jericho agreement that was signed in Cairo last week and expressed full support for it to be implemented totally and urgently. They pointed out the importance they held in achieving fundamental and quick progress in the other tracks of the bilateral negotiations, particularly the Syrian track, in order to guarantee a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The communique also expressed the GCC's intention to continue to play an active and constructive role in the multilateral talks that completed—and did not replace—the bilateral negotiations.

The ministers reiterated their views that fundamental progress in the bilateral tracks will contribute to the success of the multilateral talks and stressed the importance of providing all forms of help, including economic aid, to the occupied territories.

The communique outlined the European point of view that "lifting the Arab boycott of Israel will contribute toward strengthening the peace process" in the Middle East.

As for Bosnia, the ministers expressed their full support for efforts by the international community to reach a negotiable solution soon to the dispute in Bosnia.

They indicated that the main outlines for the European work plan that all parties endorsed at the time remained a strong basis for a solution.

The Council's foreign ministers expressed their view on the necessity to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina to enable it to practice its right to legitimate defense [words indistinct].

On the economic side, the two sides did not arrive at a clear view regarding the carbon tax that the industrial countries want to impose on their imports of oil. However, they agreed to continue the constructive dialogue with the aim of reinforcing economic and commercial cooperation.

Sources at the meeting had noted earlier today that the morning session that dealt with economic topics "did not concentrate on the issue of carbon tax as expected." The sources said this was due to the lack of a unified European stance vis-a-vis the imposition of the carbon tax, in addition to the spirit of cooperation shown by the Gulf partners.

The communique stressed the need for a suitable policies to deal with issues of the environment, energy, and economic development due to the overlap between them.

The communique also stressed the two sides' resolve to complete the free trade negotiations as soon as possible by calling on the industrial, energy, and environmental cooperation working groups to meet with the aim of presenting fresh proposals for cooperation in those fields.

On the other hand, Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, the head of the European side in the meeting, and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, emphasized the success of the meeting and the agreement of the two sides within the framework of mutual cooperation.

In a joint news conference held at the conclusion of the fifth meeting, the two ministers noted that an extensive discussion was carried out regarding the situation in the Middle East and Europe, in addition to economic cooperation issues.

The Greek foreign minister stressed Europe's interest in ending the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a "European problem." He referred to the efforts of the European Union, in cooperation with the United States and

Russia, in order to reach an immediate cease-fire in Bosnia, stressing that this was the basis for the settlement of the conflict.

Officials taking part on the European side stressed during the news conference that it was unlikely that the two sides will arrive at the present at an agreement pertaining to free trade due to the nonexistence of a unified customs tariff in the GCC countries, however, they welcomed the decision of the GCC finance ministers regarding the agreement on drawing up a program to unify the customs tariff in the GCC countries.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th Views Current Status of Negotiations

NC0705174194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that Palestinian and Israeli negotiators will begin talks in Cairo next week on the points that are still the subject of disagreement, namely the stationing of a Palestinian policeman on the Allenby Bridge, the appointment of a Palestinian director for the Rafah crossing, the al-Mawasi area on the Khan Yunis beach, and the size of the Jericho area. This came at a news conference he held today to explain the details of the Gaza-Jericho agreement which was signed by President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo on 4 May.

Dr. Sha'th said that parallel to the talks on the points that are still the subject of disagreement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, talks will also start on extending the Palestinian authority to the West Bank at an early date so that the Palestinian police will deploy in the West Bank towns to prepare for the Palestinian elections. He refused to set a date for these elections, indicating that, in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, they were supposed to take place on 13 July. However, in view of the delay in signing the agreement from April to 4 May, holding these elections in Gaza and the West Bank might be delayed .

Dr. Sha'th explained that President 'Arafat will deliver the list of the names of the members of the Palestinian authority to Israel on 11 May.

Dr. Sha'th said that Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will also take place in Washington when the Arab-Israeli talks resume on the other tracks. The talks, which on the Palestinian side will be chaired by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, will focus on the Palestinian legislative elections and the withdrawal from the West Bank. He added that talks will be held in Gaza and Jericho on the return of displaced people who left their homes after 1967. He noted that the exact number of these displaced people is not known because of population growth over the past 27 years.

Dr. Sha'th said the first group from the Palestinian police force consisting of 360 policemen and officers left for Rafah today. He added that 1,500 policemen will cross the Jordan River to Jericho tomorrow. He said more Palestinian policemen will continue to arrive in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, indicating that the PLO will adhere to the timetable mentioned in the agreement, namely one to three weeks to establish security control in the autonomous areas in Gaza and Jericho.

Dr. Sha'th noted that the Palestinian forces in Yemen today began moving overland to Najran in Saudi Arabia in view of the circumstances in Yemen and the closure of airports. He said Saudi planes will fly them to Cairo. From there they will move to their assembly point in Rafah. The Palestinian forces in Libya have also moved overland to Cairo and from there to their assembly point in Rafah. The Palestinian forces in Algeria will also move to Egypt and then to the assembly point in Rafah.

Dr. Sha'th said Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf has been appointed commander in chief of the Palestinian police force. Ziyad al-Atrash has been appointed representative of the Palestinian side on the Palestinian-Israeli Coordination Committee. Al-Atrash arrived in Gaza yesterday. Brig. Gen. Chazi al-Jabali has been appointed police commander of the Gaza Strip.

Dr. Sha'th said the interim period will begin on 4 May 1994, the date of the signing of the agreement. He indicated that a general amnesty will be issued for all prisoners and detainees when agreement on the interim period is reached. He added that no detainee will make a pledge to adhere to the accord. The pledge will be given to the Palestinian authority and not Israel; it will be a pledge to adhere to what the authority adheres to.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th said the agreement signed in Cairo Wednesday was the best possible agreement under the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September. He noted that the Declaration postponed discussion of main issues such as Israeli settlements, Jerusalem, Israeli withdrawal, border protection, and the return of the refugees.

He said the Palestinian National Authority, as it was agreed to call it, will be responsible for implementing what has been agreed upon. This authority, he added, will not have the right to exercise international powers, and countries cannot, for example, open embassies in the self-rule areas, but they may have representation offices in Gaza and Jericho.

Sha'th said the PLO outside will have the right to open embassies because the Palestine National Council had announced the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Concerning the structure of the Palestinian National Authority, Dr. Sha'th explained at the end of his news conference that a 24-member council will assume legislative and executive powers. The judicial power, he

added, will be exercised by appointed judges that cannot be dismissed, in accordance with the familiar norms in this regard.

Sha'th said the Palestinian negotiator managed to regain an important part of his rights within the framework of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

He stressed that the Palestinians will continue the negotiations until they attain all their rights to self-determination, the establishment of the Palestinian state, and repatriation.

He emphasized that the Palestinians will respect all their obligations and will work for a just and genuine peace.

Saudi Arabia Refuses To Host Multilateral Committees

PM0605112894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Sulayman Nimr report: "Saudi Arabia Refuses To Host Multilateral Negotiations Committees"]

[Excerpts] Doha—The meeting of the Arms Limitation and Regional Security Committee arising from the multilateral negotiations concluded in Doha yesterday. [passage omitted]

Prince Turki Bin-Muhammad Bin-Sa'ud, head of the Saudi delegation, has told AL-HAYAH that Saudi Arabia refuses to host any meeting of the committees arising from the multilateral negotiations or to attend any of their meetings in Israel. [passage omitted]

Israeli Official: Qatar Talks 'Encumbered' by Saudis

TA0705111294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 7 May 94

[Report by special correspondent in Qatar Karmela Menashe]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Saudi Arabia sent a more senior representative to the multilateral disarmament talks in Qatar than it had to previous encounters—the king's cousin, Prince al-Turki. Saudi Arabia sought to prove that it was the true master of the Gulf region.

Throughout the discussions, the Saudi representative's stand was obvious: Progress in the multilateral talks and the practical implementation of confidence-building measures can take place only after the peace process makes further progress. [passage omitted]

Eytan Bentzur, a Foreign Ministry deputy director general and member of the Israeli delegation to the Qatar talks, says the Saudis encumbered the progress of the talks. They should realize better than anyone else that they have a vested interest in the peace process, and in deflating tensions in this sensitive and charged region, he said. [passage omitted]

Despite the Saudi attempt to place obstacles, resolutions were adopted. It is unclear whether the Gulf states were thereby disobeying Saudi Arabia, which tried to demonstrate that its own stands will prevail vis-a-vis the other members of the oil-producing countries alliance, or perhaps the Saudis were militant only in plenum sessions.

Outside the formal talks, the Israeli delegation held conversations and meetings with the Tunisian representative, who made attempts to soften the Saudis, with the representatives of Oman, Egypt, and the U.S., and with the Qatari foreign minister.

After the talks, Israeli delegates said this was another step toward normalization with the world. [passage omitted]

Israeli Team to Refugees Committee Arrives in Cairo

NC0805205994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—An Israeli delegation led by Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosef Hadas arrived in Cairo tonight. The delegation will take part in the meetings of the Refugees Affairs Committee. The committee will hold two days of talks in Cairo as of Tuesday [10 May].

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Head: Yemen Situation 'Extremely Grave'

NC0605205694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2049 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid described the current situation in Yemen as "extremely grave."

In a statement to be published tomorrow, Saturday, by AL-WAFD, the mouthpiece of the opposition Wafd Party, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said every effort is being exerted to stop the fighting. He said the Egyptian initiative to resolve the Yemeni crisis aims to reach a solution, noting that this depends on acceptance by the Yemeni parties.

Arab League Holds Emergency Session on Yemen

Jordan's al-Qadi Chairs Meeting

NC0705115694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—The Arab League Council's emergency session at the permanent delegate-level, called by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to find a quick solution to the military crisis in Yemen, opened at the Arab League General Secretariat today.

As Yemen is the current chairman of the Arab League, Yemeni Charge d'Affaires Ahmad Shahir Sayf opened the meeting by thanking Egypt for calling this meeting to stop the bloodshed in Yemen, halt the military operations, and invite the concerned parties to sit at the negotiating table instead of arguing with guns.

The Yemeni official said he finds it very difficult to continue chairing this meeting as a Yemeni citizen whose heart is bleeding because of the developments in Yemen. He announced that he had relinquished the chairmanship to another country.

After the Yemeni delegate's speech, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid announced Ambassador Nayif Sa'ud al-Qadi, Jordan's permanent delegate to the Arab League, would chair the emergency meeting, being next alphabetically.

Opening the session, Ambassador Nayif al-Qadi said: I would like to express deep sorrow and pain at the situation in a country we love. He expressed his regret that the Yemeni leaders had abandoned dialogue and reason and resorted to guns.

He added: We do not take what is happening in fraternal Yemen lightly, because the developments will not be confined to Yemen and its people. Their repercussions will affect us all. No Arab country will be removed from what has happened and the bleeding wound will expand if we do not hasten to bind it.

Al-Qadi noted that Jordan was among the first parties to seek to mediate to help resolve the Yemeni crisis. He said, with help from the Omani brothers, his country managed to broker the Pledge and Accord Document which was signed in the Jordanian capital by Yemeni leaders in the presence of several Arab leaders. The Yemenis wanted this document as a means out of the crisis.

He added that mediation did not cease after the signing of this agreement, and noted the efforts of Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and the Arab League, which all sought to provide controls to prevent military friction and avert what we had expected and feared.

He called on the Arab League Council to work in its emergency session to adopt a practical and objective stand that would help stop the bloody fighting in Yemen and preserve the fraternal Yemeni people's interests.

Concluding his speech, the Jordanian delegate thanked Egypt for calling this emergency meeting out of concern for the Yemeni people's interests.

After his speech, the Arab League Council held a closed session to discuss an Egyptian proposal to send Arab forces to maintain peace in Yemen and to carry out measures guaranteeing an end to the fighting.

Arab League Decides Not to Intervene

NC0705133994 Paris AFP in English 1304 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Cairo, May 7 (AFP)—The Arab League decided here Saturday [7 May] not to intervene in Yemen's civil war after the northern-led government turned down an Egyptian proposal to send Arab peacekeepers to halt its conflict with the south.

But permanent delegates at the Cairo-based organisation called on its secretary general, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, to pursue efforts to end the conflict which erupted on Thursday.

A diplomatic source said the League decided to abstain on the Egyptian proposal after it had been turned down by the north.

Senior southern leader 'Abd-al-Aziz al-Dali had said earlier the south could favour Egyptian proposals to send a peacekeeping force.

He said the southern Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) led by Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid "supported all measures by the Arab League," after meeting with 'Abd-al-Majid.

And he added that if the "situation is necessary and if it is imperative in order to stop the fighting" then the YSP was in favour of sending a peacekeeping force "even if northern leaders reject it."

Foreign Minister Muhammad Salih Basindwa earlier opposed the emergency meeting in Cairo, insisting the three days of intense fighting in Yemen was an "internal affair."

'Abd-al-Majid told journalists after the meeting behind closed doors that the Arab countries had charged him with "continuing efforts to stop the fighting immediately."

They also repeated their support for Yemen, where fighting erupted Thursday between rival forces from the former North and South Yemen which were unified in May 1990.

The proposal put forward by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa needed the backing of both the Arab League and Yemen.

'Abd-al-Majid Holds News Conference

NC0705140994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—The Arab League Council held an emergency session in Cairo today. It called on Yemeni leaders to work harder to resolve their differences and cement Yemeni unity, pointing out that Yemen's unity is linked to the region's stability and security. This was declared by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid at a news conference following the end of the session.

Yemen's unity is a "pan-Arab achievement and asset" that must be protected and maintained, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said. The secretary general said that the Arab League Council instructed him to get in touch with Yemeni leaders to seek an immediate end to the fighting and to keep the League's member states informed about his efforts.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Council will consider itself in a state of permanent session to follow up the efforts that various Arab leaders are exerting to end the Yemeni crisis.

Answering journalists' questions, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the dispatch of Arab troops to separate rival forces in Yemen "was not discussed" in today's session.

Asked to comment on the news that Yemen is not enthusiastic about the holding of this particular meeting of the Arab League Council, the secretary general said that any two League member states have the right to request a Council meeting. Today's session was at the request of Egypt and Libya, he stated.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab League Council does not interfere in the internal affairs of Yemen or any Arab country. The Council respects the sovereignty of all Arab countries, he added.

The secretary general pointed out that the Yemeni leadership received an Arab League delegation on 4 March. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the other Arab leaders attended the signing of the Pledge and Accord document in Amman, on 20 February, a matter which, the secretary general added, confirms Arab interest in the situation in Yemen.

Yemen's al-Dali Welcomes Arab League Meeting

NC0705104794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau of the Yemen Socialist Party [YSP] and personal envoy of Yemeni Vice President [title as received] 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Following the meeting, al-Dali stated that the urgent meeting of the Arab League Council is a positive step toward solving the Yemeni crisis. He said he hopes the meeting will stop the bloody war between northern and southern Yemeni troops in good time.

He added that the YSP supports any step the brothers at the Arab League take and the Egyptian initiative on Yemen.

Al-Dali said the current infighting in Yemen is not a domestic but rather a pan-Arab affair, adding that the YSP will demand Arab assistance if the Yemeni parties fail to stop the fighting.

Touching on the Egyptian proposal to send Arab peace-keeping forces to Yemen, al-Dali remarked that the YSP will welcome this if it becomes necessary, even if Yemeni leaders refuse to stop fighting.

He appealed to all Yemeni leaders and brothers in Egypt and other Arab states to take action to end the ongoing fighting in Yemen.

'Abd-al-Majid Leaves for South Africa Inauguration

NC0805082394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid left Cairo for Johannesburg this morning leading a delegation that will attend the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as president of South Africa.

The inauguration is slated for the day after tomorrow, Tuesday.

Syria Reportedly Leading Efforts To Sustain Boycott

NC0705113294 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 29 Apr 94 p 5

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Excerpts] The general commissioner of the Damascus main branch of the Arab Bureau on the Boycott of Israel is making contacts with Arab governments to set a date for the bureau's 67th session, which has been postponed since October 1993.

Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo affirm that Syria is currently leading a large-scale diplomatic effort to persuade Arab states to hold on to the boycott weapon until all occupied Arab territories are liberated. The sources revealed that seven Arab states in Asia and Africa have ended their second- and third-level economic boycotts of Israel.

At its last meeting in late March, the Arab League Ministerial Council reiterated the Arab states' firm concurence with the provisions of the boycott and their resistance to foreign legislation opposing the boycott. The reason the council gave was the continued Israeli occupation of Palestine, the Golan Heights, and South Lebanon.

The United States and other Western states have recently sought to persuade Arab states to shrink their boycott of Israel gradually and eventually end it. [passage omitted]

The latest report the Boycott Bureau issued includes a list of 60 companies, firms, and foreign banks that have violated the terms of the boycott. The bureau called for including these on the black list. The companies are British, American, Spanish, and Bulgarian.

The bureau recommended that the ban be lifted on certain Dutch, British, Swedish, Australian, American, Swiss, Greek, French, Canadian, Singaporean, and Danish firms. These firms submitted documents proving the integrity of their position.

The report demanded the addition of 6 ships belonging to Panama, the Bahamas, Honduras, and Malaysia to the black list.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Views Events in Yemen With 'Grave Concern'

LD0805131094 Riyadh SPA in English 1226 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Jeddah, May 8, SPA—The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] has expressed grave concern over the serious escalation of the situation in the Republic of Yemen, especially the recent incidents in many provinces which have killed and wounded a large number of people.

In a statement issued Saturday [7 May], the OIC expressed hope that usual stability and cordiality among the people of Yemen would be restored, differences would be discarded and efforts would be exerted to confirm their unity and resort to dialogue and understanding rather than violence and fighting.

The OIC called on the leaders and people of Yemen to show restraint and remain committed to their firm belief and wisdom and work together for the progress of Yemen and the protection of its immortal civilization.

OIC Secretary General Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid called on Yemeni leaders, ulemas and politicians to work as one for the best interests of the country.

He asked them to find points of agreement and reduce points of disagreement and withdraw massed troops separating brothers to their previous positions.

Dr. al-Ghabid once again confirmed the OIC's readiness to exert good Islamic offices and mediation efforts out of its Islamic duty and in conformity with the principles of Islam.

Palestinian Affairs

Initial Police Force To Enter Gaza Strip

NC0705074694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 May 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—The vanguards of the Palestinian police and security forces left 'Ayn Jalut Palestinian forces' camp in Cairo for Rafah this morning as they prepare to enter the Gaza Strip within the next 48 hours. The forces will take charge of their tasks within the framework of the Palestinian National Authority.

These vanguards include some 1,000 people, mostly young men between 16 and 26 years old who live in Egypt and Sudan, although their families still reside in Gaza.

The Palestinian troops boarded buses bearing the picture of Palestinian Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. They waved their Palestinian flags and chanted patriotic Palestinian songs.

Major General Yusuf Nasr, commander of the Palestinian security forces in Gaza and Jericho, stated that the troops are expected to enter the Gaza Strip on Sunday or Monday.

Major General Yusuf Nasr affirmed that the Palestinian forces will complete their deployment in Gaza and the area of Jericho within 14 days, in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement signed in Cairo. The agreement provides for completing the Israeli troop withdrawal and their replacement with Palestinian troops within 14 days of 4 May.

He added that Palestinian security and police forces arriving from Iraq and Jordan will head for Jericho tomorrow via the Allenby Bridge over the Jordan River to take over their tasks as soon as possible. He added that the security and police forces will be equipped with personal weapons, automatic rifles and pistols, in addition to light- and medium-machine guns.

Maj. Gen. Nasr pointed out that much of the assistance promised by various states has not arrived. Only 25 vehicles donated by the United States have arrived, he said, adding that an additional 175 vehicles will arrive on 15 May. He also said that a shipment of police uniforms has arrived from Sweden.

He noted that the troops going to Gaza today are self-equipped and are not reliant on foreign assistance. He added that a number of police stations in Gaza can absorb the first batch of Palestinian forces. We will need more centers and stations in coming days, he said.

Maj. Gen. Nasr pointed out that the Gaza Strip and Jericho area will need stability, reconstruction, and security in the future and there is no time for disputes among citizens of different political backgrounds. We believe in democracy and in every citizen's right to express himself, and we will cooperate with everyone, he said.

He added that the Palestinian security forces have developed a specific program to handle the problem of collecting arms from Gaza's citizens, but he refrained from revealing it.

Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has told MENA that the Palestinian troops will enter the Gaza Strip and Jericho as soon as they are allowed to. He explained that the Palestinians want to complete this task quietly and safely.

He noted that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had stated that the Palestinian troops were not prepared to

enter Gaza and Jericho. This is not true, he said, because the 9,000 troops will complete their entry in just 14 days.

He noted that the majority of these troops have never seen the Palestinian land, but that the homeland is in their hearts.

He affirmed that the Palestinian side is prepared to put forward new working papers and ideas when the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators get together to find a solution to a number of issues, such as the area of Jericho, the crossing points, Gaza's coastline, and others. He pointed out that the Palestinians base their work on ending the occupation. Therefore, he said, ideas will be put forward to achieve this goal.

Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Hayy 'Abd-al-Wahid, commander of the Palestinian 'Ayn Jalut forces in Egypt, gave a speech to the Palestinian police and security forces in which he said that this is the moment Palestinians have been awaiting for over 27 years. You have to carry out the tasks you have been entrusted with in order to build our state and safeguard the homeland's security, he said, noting that the Palestinians have made great sacrifices for this moment.

He thanked the Egyptian Armed Forces for training these troops and the Egyptian people and President Mubarak for their support for the Palestinian people and cause. [passage omitted]

Entry of Police Delayed

NC0805054494 Paris AFP in English 2237 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, May 8 (AFP)—The Palestinian police deployment in the Gaza Strip, scheduled to start on Sunday [8 May], has been delayed again, Palestinian sources said here late Saturday.

They said "technical reasons" were to blame for the delay in the arrival of hundreds of policemen from the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, but declined to elaborate.

Some 300 policemen left Cairo for the Rafah crossing earlier Saturday, a day after Palestinian general Ziyad al-Atrash announced here that the Gaza deployment would start Sunday after a delay of several days.

But Palestinian officials in Amman, meanwhile, said hundreds more policemen were to cross Sunday from Jordan into the West Bank for deployment in the other self-rule area, Jericho.

However, the Israeli news agency ITIM said no deployment was expected in Jericho Sunday as the Palestinians had failed to coordinate their arrival with the Israeli army, it said.

The police were due to arrive in Gaza, ITIM said, quoting military sources.

Under the autonomy deal signed Wednesday between the PLO and Israel, 9,000 Palestinian policemen are to be deployed in Jericho and the Gaza Strip to take charge of security as the Israeli army pulls out.

However General Dany Rothschild, coordinator of Israeli activities in the occupied territories, complained Saturday that the Palestinians were not ready to take over their new responsibilities.

"If the transfer of civilian powers in the autonomous zones does not take place in an orderly fashion, the situation on the ground will deteriorate," he said. "We still don't have anybody to hand these powers to."

He detected a change in the Palestinian stand.

"Up until a few days ago, the word from them was: 'Give us the keys and leave. We'll sort it out.' Their calls for help are now more frequent and they're starting to realize the size of the task," said the general.

On the Israeli side, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is to present the self-rule accord he signed last week with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat for parliament's approval on Wednesday, parliamentary sources said.

Vehicles Carrying Police Weapons Cross Gaza Border

NC0805091994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Rafah, 8 May (MENA)—Vehicles carrying the personal weapons of the initial groups of the Palestinian police have crossed at Rafah today. The U.S.-made sniper weapons will be used to safeguard security and to deal with riots and law-breaking acts.

Brigadier General Ghazi 'Ali, the Palestinian police liaison officer, stated that other troops and vehicles carrying weapons will enter Gaza in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Brig. Gen. Ghazi, in charge of coordination during the entry of the troops, said that he will give a news conference in Rafah today in the presence of Palestinian police and Egyptian officials regarding coordinating and organizing the entry of the troops in groups.

In another development, PLO official spokesman Marwan Kanafani has said that the troops will be assembled in the city of Rafah on the international borders and that they will enter in groups.

Palestinian Police in Iraq Head for Territories

NC0705153194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Amman, 7 May (MENA)—Palestinian police forces from the al-Aqsa troops this afternoon moved from their areas of deployment in Iraq and headed for the Palestinian territories.

Khalid Mismar, Palestinian information officer in Amman, has told MENA correspondent here that the

Palestinian forces will cross into the occupied territories via the King Husayn [Allenby] Bridge within 48 hours. The Palestinian official noted that another group from the Badr troops, which are stationed in Jordan, will depart for Jericho tomorrow, Sunday, via the King Husayn Bridge.

PLO Police at Allenby Bridge Wait To Enter Jericho

NC0805081794 Paris AFP in English 0733 GMT 8 May 94

[By Barry Parker]

[Text] Jerusalem, May 8 (AFP)—The on-off arrival of the first contingent of armed Palestinian policemen to the occupied territories was delayed again on Sunday [8 May], Israeli officials said.

A battalion of 270 men carrying M-16 rifles reached the Allenby Bridge crossing from Jordan to the West Bank, but Israel said they would not be allowed in until Monday.

An AFP correspondent reported that the men, members of the PLO's Palestine Liberation Army, had gathered a kilometre (around half a mile) from the bridge.

The Palestinian representative in Jordan, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, had said the contingent could set off shortly after formalities were completed. Another 300-strong contingent was then due to cross Monday after arriving from Iraq.

However Israel's military administration for the West Bank denied that the police would cross the Allenby Bridge to the newly-autonomy Jericho enclave on Sunday.

"Nothing will happen today," an administration spokesman said. "It should be tomorrow, Monday."

The Israeli news agency ITIM reported that the arrivals had not been coordinated with the Israelis over Friday-Saturday and would therefore be delayed.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben-Ari said: "We are sorry for the delays, which the Palestinians say are due to technical reasons, we hope they will arrive as soon as possible."

On the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said the police deployment there had been postponed again after being scheduled for Sunday.

Several hundred policemen were at first scheduled to cross the Rafah border from Egypt last Thursday. That was delayed until Sunday, then put back further until the middle of the following week, before being brought back to Sunday again.

The Palestinian sources blamed "technical reasons" for the latest hold-up in the arrival of some 300 policemen from Egypt.

No new date has been given for the arrivals to Gaza.

Nineteen senior Palestinian officers, including several "generals" did arrive in Gaza last Wednesday ready to take charge from the withdrawing Israelis.

They have formed a liaison committee and toured Israeli army and police buildings which the Palestinians are to take over.

The bulk of the 9,000-strong Palestinian police has been recruited from the PLA [Palestine Liberation Army], which is the PLO's army and has brigades scattered across several Arab countries.

The policemen are to take over security from the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip and Jericho under the autonomy deal Israel and the PLO signed last Wednesday.

The autonomy agreement gives Israel the right to approve all the names of the police and details their arms and equipment.

They can carry 7,000 personal arms, 120 machineguns of 0.3 mm and 0.5 mm calibre and drive 45 armoured vehicles, the accord says.

The armoured vehicles will need prior Israeli approval to use the main north-south road on the Gaza Strip.

Any equipment, weapons and munitions donated or bought from abroad is subject to Israeli approval.

The police are to maintain order in the Gaza Strip and Jericho while Israel remains responsible for the protection of settlers and borders.

Security Officer on Deployment in Gaza, Jericho

NC0805164994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1522 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Rafah, 8 May (MENA)—Major General Nasr Yusuf, director general of the Palestinian security force, has stated that the Palestinian 'Ayn Jalut Forces will take over the security tasks in the Palestinian city of Rafah and that the Badr forces arriving from Jordan will take over the security tasks in Jericho. He said that deployment of these 9,000 personnel is scheduled to be completed by 25 May, the date set for the end of the Israeli withdrawal and handing over the security and civilian powers to the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho.

Maj. Gen. Yusuf praised Egypt's preparation and training of the 'Ayn Jalut Forces, which have been deployed in Egypt since the 1960's, to work as infantry personnel and to perform security tasks after the signing of the latest agreement. He noted that there are Palestinian security personnel receiving training on police and security tasks. He said that the first group of these personnel will complete their training courses in July. He praised the facilities that the Central Security Forces in Sinia provided for the Palestinian forces on arrival in Rahah before entering the Gaza Strip.

Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat expressed the Palestinian people's appreciation for the training Egypt, led by President 'Arafat, has offered and is offering to enable the Palestinian security and political departments to take over their tasks. He noted that President Mubarak affirmed to 'Arafat Egypt's readiness to support the Palestinian people in rebuilding the infrastructure which was destroyed by the occupation forces.

Maj. Gen. Muhammad al-Nashshar, commander of the Central Security Forces in Sinai, visited the camp where the Palestinian security forces were received in Rafah and met with Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf and Marwan Kanafani. He made a speech in which he congratulated the Palestinians on taking power in Gaza and Jericho and expressed his hope that they would take power in the entire West Bank shortly. Maj. Gen. Yusuf expressed the Palestinian forces' thanks for their brothers in Egypt and stressed that Egypt has never abandoned its obligations toward Palestine and its people.

PLO Leaders Said Not Prepared To Assume Authority

LD0605214094 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 May 94

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Details on the situation in the occupied Gaza Strip and Jericho and the reactions to the agreement on implementing Palestinian self-rule are in the following report from our correspondent in the occupied Palestinian territories:

[Unidentified correspondent] [Passage omitted] On the reasons behind the Palestinian request to delay assuming authority from the Israeli side, I met Dr. Samir 'Abdullah, member of the negotiating team, whose name appeared on the list of the upcoming national authority. He said:

[Begin recording] ['Abdullah] It is obvious that there is a weakness in the Palestinian preparedness. Preparations for this day were not made in a correct manner, and this has led to the delay.

[Correspondent] This request for the delay was the subject of criticism by the Israelis and probably by some international sides. This is attributed to the inability of the Palestinians to assume the responsibilities for which they have been calling for a long time.

['Abdullah] In my view, the criticism is clear. There is bitter criticism in the Palestinian camp. The Palestinian camp and people were waiting for the moment of withdrawal of the Israelis from the occupied territories, but it seems that the leadership in Tunis has not prepared itself properly for this moment, though it was expected that the Palestinians would assume authority quickly. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Arafat Denies Asking For Delay in Power Transfer

JN0605182594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 May 94

[Muhammad Kurayshan report from Tunis]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee is expected to resume meetings in Tunis tomorrow. The Executive committee began its meetings today under Yasir 'Arafat and in the presence of nine of its members. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Bishop Iliya Khuri will join them tomorrow.

Immediately after his return from Amman, 'Arafat submitted a report on the atmosphere that prevailed over the signing of the Cairo agreement on 4 May, particularly on the points of differences that are still pending with the Israelis. 'Arafat said these differences will be discussed within the next three months.

According to informed sources here, 'Arafat denied at the meeting that he had asked Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to postpone the transfer of power in Gaza and Jericho until the Palestinian side finds itself ready to do so.

The PLO Executive Committee discussed the configuration of the Palestinian authority that will take charge of the autonomy rule, which is expected to be equally divided between the Palestinians inside and outside the [territories] under Yasir 'Arafat.

The formation of this authority is expected to be announced here in Tunis in the next two days, at the end of the current meetings. It seems that there is no dispute about the figures from the territories, while viewpoints continue to be exchanged concerning the figures from the diaspora [word indistinct] from the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee.

Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', head of the PLO Economic Department, will leave for Amman soon to inform the Jordanian Government about the details of the economic agreement with Israel and the scope of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in this field.

'Arafat Continues Preparations for Self-Rule

LD0705085994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] In connection with the Middle East, President Yasir 'Arafat continues his consultations to complete the names of the team of his government, which will assume power in the occupied territories during the transitional period.

The establishment of Palestinian authority comes in implementation of the self-rule agreement in Gaza and Jericho, which was signed on Wednesday last [4 May].

In fact, the Palestinian president is today expected to continue his consultations, which are mainly concentrated on the list of names from inside the occupied

territories who will occupy 12 specific posts in the autonomous Palestinian government.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting in Tunis last night with members of the Fatah Central Committee, the largest of the PLO, to discuss preparations for the handover of self-rule authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

This meeting complements 'Arafat's meeting with the Palestinian leadership yesterday morning, which lasted for six hours. These meetings have particularly concentrated on putting down the final formation of the national authority council, headed by 'Arafat, and includes 12 members from inside the occupied territories and a similar number from abroad.

Palestinian sources say that the Fatah Central Committee has appointed—during a meeting held at the end of this week in Tunis—five of its members to take part in the self-rule authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Palestinian observers believe that President 'Arafat is currently facing difficulties in selecting the team of his government because he wants this choice to take into account all the political, geographical, or tribal balances.

It remains to point out that the self-rule agreement, signed in Cairo on Wednesday last, stipulates for the establishment of Palestinian authority on 25 May instantly, and stipulates on informing Israel of the Palestinian formation that will assume power.

Five Fatah Members Appointed to National Authority

JN0905125494 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, met the night before last with the members of the Palestinian leadership in the PLO Executive Committee and the Central Committee of Fatah, the largest PLO faction. The meeting was devoted to discussing preparations to assume self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho.

This meeting was a continuation of the one between brother Abu-'Ammar and the Palestinian leadership. These meetings are meant to prepare the final composition of the council of the National Authority, chaired by brother President Abu-'Ammar. The council includes 12 members from the occupied territories and 12 others from outside. The meetings are also discussing the formations of the institutions that will assume self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

Meanwhile, it was announced in Tunis that five PLO Executive Committee members will be members of the Palestinian National Authority, which will include 24 personalities. Brother President Abu-'Ammar is holding intensive consultations to form this body.

AFP reported that the members of the PLO Executive Committee who will assume posts in the forthcoming authority are:

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, for the Palestinian Democratic Union; Samir Ghawshah, for the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; and three independent personalities: Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, Yasir 'Amr, and Jawid al-Ghusayn.

The Fatah Central Committee, led by brother President Abu-'Ammar, had earlier appointed five of its members to assume positions in the authority. Half of the members of the authority are from outside the occupied territories; the other half are from inside.

Sources close to Fatah said the five are: Nabil Sha'th, Ahmad Quray', and Intisar al-Wazir from outside; and Faysal al-Husayni and Zakariya al-Agha from inside.

Candidates For Palestinian 'Government' Listed

JN0805095094 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 8 May 94 p 1

[Text] PLO Executive Committee sources have disclosed the list of names of members of the Palestinian government which the Executive Committee is studying in its meeting which started on Friday [6 May]. The sources said the government is expected to be announced today or tomorrow. According to the sources, the names suggested for the government which the Executive committee is discussing are as follows:

—Yasir 'Arafat, head
—Jawid al-Ghusayn, financial affairs
—Samir 'Abdallah, development
—Jamil al-Tarifi, civil status
—Furayh Abu-Middayn, justice
—Shaykh Karim Sabri, religious affairs
—'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj, health
—Muhammad Ishtayyah, planning and construction
—Ibrahim Sha'ban, housing
—Antun Sansur, culture
—Yasir 'Amr, education
—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, information
—Intisar al-Wazir, social affairs
—Major General Nasr Yusuf, police
—Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, relations with Jordan
—Faysal al-Husayni, Jerusalem affairs
—Ahmad Quray', economic affairs
—Nabil Sha'th, foreign affairs

The sources said there are other candidates whose portfolios have not been decided yet. These are: Samir Ghawshah, 'Abdallah al-Ifranji, Zakariya al-Agha, Mahir al-Masri, Hisham 'Abd-al-Razzaq, and Ahmad Bayyud al-Tamimi.

Snags Face Formation of National Authority Council

NC0805123594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Tunis, 8 May (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Samir Ghawshah has stated that no decision has been made yet on the names of the members of the National Authority Council, which will take over self-rule responsibility in Gaza and Jericho. In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Tunis, Ghawshah said consultations are under way with the Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories to obtain their agreement to join the council. He added some leaders have agreed in principle to participate in the council, others have asked for more time to think about the subject, while many have declined to participate for various reasons.

Ghawshah said consultations are continuing between Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and the diaspora Palestinian leaders, including members of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Council, to choose 12 members for the council from the diaspora. The 12 other members will be chosen from the occupied territories.

Ghawshah said he believes the formation of the council and the announcement of the names of its members will not be completed before Wednesday, 11 May, the date when 'Arafat will deliver to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin a list of the names of members of the National Authority Council and the self-rule establishments.

'Arafat continued consultations last night and this morning with the members of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Council and the representatives of the Palestinian factions. 'Arafat will continue his consultations today before leaving for Johannesburg tonight to attend the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as president of South Africa.

Palestinian sources have stated that a number of prominent Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories have expressed a desire not to participate in the National Authority Council. They include Faysal al-Husayni, Fatah representative in the West Bank; and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, chief Palestinian negotiator at the Washington talks.

Regarding the Palestinian personalities in the diaspora, it has become certain that Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, will not participate in the council. The PLO Political Department will continue to operate from Tunis. Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, head of the PLO National and International Relations Department, will also remain abroad to follow-up the talks on the final phase of the solution of the Palestinian issue.

Sha'th Denies National Authority Membership Reports

JN0805104894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, has denied reports that he apologized to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for not wanting to join the new Palestinian national authority which will run the self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

In an interview with our correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi, Sha'th said he was not nominated to join this authority in the first place and that news agency reports on this issue were only rumors. He noted that no appointments have been announced yet.

Sha'th on Police Arrivals, Appointment 'Rumors'

JN0805112794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0945 GMT 8 May 94

[Telephone interview With Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian negotiating team to the Cairo talks, in Tunis, by Sa'id Mu'addi in the studio; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, reports say you apologized to Yasir 'Arafat regarding your appointment in the Palestinian national authority. How true are these reports?

[Sha'th] I was not nominated for this authority and I have not apologized. I do not know the source of these two reports. Thus far, no appointments have been announced and no one has been asked to do anything. I have not apologized to anyone for anything. These are only rumors.

[Mu'addi] The PLO leadership is discussing the formation of the Palestinian National Authority. How far have these discussions gone?

[Sha'th] I believe that in the next few days, maybe in the next three days, these names will be announced and given to the Israeli Government.

[Mu'addi] Let us move to the Israeli-Palestinian agreement signed last week in Cairo. What are the future steps, particularly regarding the deployment of Palestinian police force in Gaza and Jericho?

[Sha'th] These forces are now massing in Rafah, on the Egyptian side of the border, and in Jordan, to prepare to cross into Gaza and Jericho. Naturally, there is some delay resulting from the civil war in Yemen and the fact that planes cannot fly in Libyan airspace. Our troops in Yemen will have to move by land to Saudi Arabia first, and our troops in Libya will have to move by land from Libya to Rafah. This will naturally cause some delay. But, troops are now in Rafah waiting for permission to cross. Troops are also in Amman preparing to move to the Jordan Valley and cross the Allenby Bridge. I think

that in the next week or 10 days, these troops will enter to form the bulk of the Palestinian police force.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, regarding the talks on refugees, this issue has drawn some reaction in Israel. What did the Oslo Agreement stipulate in this regard?

[Sha'th] The Oslo Agreement is very clear. However, there are some people on the Israeli right who do not wish to read, or if they do read, do not wish to understand the agreement. The agreement says the four-sided committee—comprising Jordan, Egypt, Israel, and the Palestinian authority—will discuss the return of refugees who left after 1967 from only two aspects: Establishing the measures for their return and the measures to protect security and public order. There are no restrictions on the numbers or the principle of the return of these individuals. The issue concerns only measures.

[Mu'addi] When will the proceedings of the four-sided committee start?

[Sha'th] The decision was made in the letters exchanged between Chairman 'Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin that Israel and the PLO should invite Jordan and Egypt to the first meeting within a month after signing the agreement. That will be before 4 June.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, thank you.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

'Arafat Issues Decree on Status of Civil Servants

NC0805115894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Tunis, 8 May (MENA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has issued a decree considering all Palestinian employees in various administrations in the occupied territories as employees of the Palestinian National Authority.

Jibril al-Rujub, 'Arafat's adviser for the occupied territories affairs, said 'Arafat had decided to appoint Lawyer Ghassan al-Shak'ah as provisional mayor of Nabulus until elections are held in the self-rule areas in the future.

Al-Husayni Discusses Self-Rule Authority

TA0905075894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 May 94

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, "head of Fatah in the West Bank," by Yoni Ben-Menahem; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] Mr. al-Husayni, when will the future Palestinian authority be announced?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that this will take place within the next few days, whereby this authority will be able to take over all its powers when Israel concludes its withdrawal. Great tasks lie ahead of the authority that is to be established. These include implementation of the Cairo agreement, rebuilding the infrastructure in the areas from which the Israeli forces will pull out, preparing for deployment in the other areas from which Israel will withdraw in the future, and preparing for free and democratic elections that will be held in the middle of October.

[Ben-Menahem] Will you participate in the future Palestinian authority?

[Al-Husayni] If I am assigned to this authority I will discuss the assignment and see what my duty will be. If this is within my capabilities and abilities I believe that it will be incumbent upon me to accept.

[Ben-Menahem] According to reports, a large number of West Bank and Gaza Strip figures have expressed reservation in accepting participation in this authority. What is your position regarding this reservation?

[Al-Husayni] I believe we have the right to have reservations. I myself have reservations on the Cairo agreement, but we should not have reservations on performing our duties if this chance is provided to us in an open and good manner and if the powers and responsibilities are determined. If such an opportunity is offered to me and if the powers and responsibilities are determined and clear, I believe that I should accept.

[Ben-Menahem] Then according to your assessment those figures will not refuse the appointments by Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that the position of a large number of those figures in terms of whether to accept or not stems from their lack of confidence that the picture and the responsibilities will be clear. Therefore, I believe that entering a new stage in which the responsibilities and powers are defined in a pyramidal way can serve the coming stage.

[Ben-Menahem] Is there a split between the residents of the occupied territories and the diaspora regarding the issue of the future Palestinian authority? Is it true that the residents do not accept those from the outside to arrive and govern the people?

[Al-Husayni] There is absolutely no such thing. In fact, I have met many people outside who hold opinions similar to those inside. I have also found many people inside who hold different opinions but they are identical with those of the outside. The issue is not inside or outside but how one thinks. A Palestinian may affiliate himself with the inside or outside irrespective of a position.

[Ben-Menahem] But do most of the figures in the West Bank fear that the outside, the PLO, will come here and govern the people?

[Al-Husayni] No. I do not believe there is such a thing, although if some are objecting it is against the decision-making approach. Some here have such reservations, but not so much against personalities as against the decision-making approach.

Hamas Representative on Jordan Ties, Policy

NC0605200894 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 22 Apr 94 p 23

[Interview with Mustafa al-Liddawi, representative of Hamas in Beirut, by Ja'far Salim and 'Abbas Surur; place and date not given]

[Text] [AL-'AHD] What happened recently between Hamas and the Jordanian Government? What are the reasons?

[Al-Liddawi] The progress achieved by Hamas, especially in the occupied territories, coincided with a clear decline in the PLO leadership's popularity. The PLO leadership did not like it. Through an alliance with Israel, it presented several complaints to the Americans against Jordan, where the Hamas representative and its official spokesman reside. Hakam Bal'awi's visit to Jordan and his talks with the Jordanian prime minister on the need to dwarf Hamas' role came within this context. The visit took place 15 days ago and it was followed by another visit to Jordan by Yasir 'Arafat, who tried to drive a wedge between Jordan and Hamas.

The other reasons given are not true; they are not the real reasons behind the threats to Jordan by Rabin and Peres. Statements by the Hamas official spokesman and representative in Jordan concerning the 'Afula and Hadera operations were made after the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam groups inside the occupied territories announced their responsibility for the two martyrdom operations. The operations were used as a pretext to implement this conspiracy against fraternal Jordan, to blackmail it, especially after Jordan's recent position toward the blockade of the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah and Jordan's link between its continuing participation in the bilateral talks and the lifting of the blockade. On top of this comes the painful impact of the martyrdom operations on the occupation government.

[AL-'AHD] It was said that Ibrahim Ghawshah and Muhammad Nazzal's passports were withdrawn. What information do you have on this?

[Al-Liddawi] We do not say that the Jordanian Government withdrew their passports. But after the news conference that King Husayn held in Amman following the Israeli threats to Jordan, the Jordanian foreign minister summoned Ghawshah and Nazzal to explain developments and the government's position on them. After listening to the two, the minister asked their permission to keep their passports with him.

[AL-'AHD] Many observers expect relations between Hamas and the Jordanian regime to become tense.

[Al-Liddawi] We do not expect such a thing. Our relations with the Jordanian Government remain good, despite what happened. Jordan appreciates that the Palestinian cause is important for it. There are many reasons leading it to create good relations with Hamas, which in turn appreciates Jordan's importance for the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people in general. We also deeply respect all the Arab and Islamic countries, especially those where we have an information, political, or charitable presence. We want their security to be stable, especially Jordan's. Hamas has no organizational infrastructure or armed presence outside Palestine. It is not our policy to embarrass Jordan or any other country. We believe that relations with Jordan will not be harmed by what happened. The government's recent measures against Hamas will not last.

[AL-'AHD] King Husayn's recent statements indicate that his regime recognizes only the PLO as the Palestinian people's legitimate representative. How do you view these statements?

[Al-Liddawi] This stance is not new. It has long been the Jordanian Government's official stance. So what is strange in the king's statements? He has said nothing new.

As for our stance on the legitimacy of 'Arafat and his organization's representation of the Palestinian people, we believe that neither the PLO nor Hamas represent the entire Palestinian people. In our view, the party that legitimately represents the Palestinian people is the one that will be brought forward by honest Palestinian elections in which all Palestinians participate, wherever they are. This is what we are calling for.

[AL-'AHD] Muhammad Nazzal told AL-'AHD two weeks ago that Hamas would hit the Israeli settlements with rockets. What is your comment on this?

[Al-Liddawi] That's what I and brother Muhammad Nazzal read in the statement issued by the Martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions in the occupied territories. It threatened the Zionists with more military operations against the enemy's soldiers and settlers in retaliation for the massacre perpetrated by the settlers in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

We are expecting more painful operations against the enemy by the Martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions.

[AL-'AHD] Does this mean that the target of these operations will be the settlements built in the territories occupied in 1967 or the ones throughout Palestine?

[Al-Liddawi] This question should be put to the Martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions operating in occupied Palestine because all the planning, preparation, and implementation of all the military operations is carried out in the occupied territories.

[AL-'AHD] How do you envisage the relations between Hamas and Fatah in the event of the implementation of the self-rule in Gaza and Jericho and the entry of 'Arafat and the Palestinian police force into these two areas?

[Al-Liddawi] We yearn to maintain good relations with all the sides in the occupied territories. Fatah enjoys support in the occupied territories and any fighting between Hamas and Fatah would trigger the fire of civil war in Palestine. We must avoid this as far as we can.

Any struggle between the two inside the occupied territories would be bloody and destructive to our people. We must, therefore, try hard to avoid any explosion of the situation. Proceeding from this perspective, we hold meetings with all the forces in the occupied territories, including Fatah and others.

Hamas will not take part in the Palestinian force that will be established in Gaza and Jericho. We hope this force will support our people and will not be a tool in the hands of the occupation authorities.

[AL-'AHD] Are you afraid there will be sedition, especially as many people predict there will be?

[Al-Liddawi] We are confident that sedition and infighting are an Israeli dream. Israel is paving the way for them. If there is sedition it will only serve the Zionist interests. It will be devastating for the people. We hope that everyone will realize the dangers and ramifications of sedition. We also hope that the people are aware of this and will do all they can to avoid it and undermine the objectives of the conspirators.

[AL-'AHD] How do you view the arms phenomenon in Palestine? Is the Mosad involved in supplying the arms?

[Al-Liddawi] Weapons are being distributed inside the occupied territories. Everyone is collecting the weapons for his own goals. Some people gather weapons for the sake of the resistance and jihad, while others store them for self-defense. But other people are collecting weapons with the help and planning of the Mosad to see that things flare up and any sedition worsens. We all know the objectives of the Israeli intelligence in stirring problems among the various parties. For this purpose, the intelligence service is exerting every effort and using its agents.

Algeria

Gunmen Kill Two French Nationals

LD0805172594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The security services announced today that two French nationals, aged 64 and 67, who were running a bookshop were assassinated by gun fire from armed men at about 1500 hours at Benchleb Street in El Casba quarter.

The security services also said that its forces had cordoned off the area and had begun the search for the perpetrators of the crime.

Condolences Sent to France

LD0805205794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Following the assassination of two French nationals in the capital Algiers today, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi sent a cable of condolences to his French counterpart, Edouard Balladur, on behalf of the government and in his personal name, which stated that the Algerian authorities will do their utmost to arrest the perpetrators of this crime. This is no more than a confirmation, the head of government adds, regarding combating terrorism.

The interior minister has deplored, in a statement released this evening, this abominable action and offered condolences to the families of the two victims and the whole of the French community regarding this tragic incident.

The interior minister stressed that Algeria is known for its tradition of hospitality and its respect of human life and is not and will never be a home for criminals and killers. The perpetrators of this operation will be sought and punished severely, he said.

Regarding the terrorist activities, the security services announced today that they had eliminated 15 terrorists and arrested 5 others between Monday and Saturday at various parts of the country.

Court Passes Sentences in 'Terrorism' Cases

LD0605211894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The Constantine special judicial court passed sentences ranging between 15 years imprisonment to the acquittal of 58 accused in a number of cases connected with terrorism and acts of sabotage. Those sentenced belonged to a number of terrorist organizations that carried out burglaries, desecrated places of worship, made home-made bombs, printed inciting leaflets, and other charges infringing on public security.

Thousands March in Support of National Dialogue

LD0805155994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 May 94

[Excerpts] On the same day when the Algerian people are commemorating the painful May massacres, over 20 national associations and organizations have called for staging marches throughout various provinces of the homeland supporting the national dialogue and rejecting violence and extremism.

These marches are supported by many political parties, in the forefront of which are the National Liberation Front [FLN], the Rally for Culture and Democracy, the Islamic Ennahda Movement, and the Islamic Society Movement, HAMAS.

Amidst tight security measures, the march began after a delay of about one hour. The radio team is with us live:

[Unidentified correspondent] Yes, Djamila, the march dispersed a short time ago—about 15 minutes ago—after having lasted for about two hours to cross the distance between 1 May Square and Martyrs Square. The start of the march at the scheduled time, at 1000, was delayed in order to allow participants to leave their offices. The early time and the tight security requirements were the reasons for the delay. [passage omitted]

This was evident from the fact that after the reading out of the statement that crowned the march—15 minutes ago—participants kept flowing into Martyrs Square. The march passed calmly and quietly, broken only by the occasional trilling cries of joy from the women.

Alongside the members of the march preparatory committee and representatives of 20 associations, two political figures were present. They were Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the FLN, and Mahfouz Nahnah, leader of the HAMAS Movement.

The banners that were raised were agreed upon, among them: "No to Violence, Yes to Dialogue"; "No to Extremism"; "No to Exclusion, Yes to Meeting". A large banner carrying the slogan of the national reconciliation was at the front of the march.

The number of participants in the march is not known precisely. The observations were conflicting. Some of the organizers expressed satisfaction, claiming that the number of the participants was 100,000 persons. Some observers, among them journalists, noted that the number did not exceed 30,000 or 40,000 persons. The official estimates might resolve this issue.

A statement, which was a message addressed to the president of the state, was read out at the end of the march. The statement stressed that the initiative was an expression of civilized behavior to open a new chapter in which all the sons of the homeland meet. The initiative is

also an expression to reject violence, reject one-upmanship—regardless of the slogans—and reject the solutions that contradict national constant and firm principles.

The statement also expressed support for the president of the state in his endeavors for national reconciliation through comprehensive and deep dialogue.

This was a general report about the march. From the street where the march took place, here is a report from colleague Ahmad Khaida:

[Khaida] Mohamed, this march—which some participants considered to be a march of hope and others a march of a new era for Algeria—has stirred various reactions. Some of those interviewed said that, from a historical point of view, the march is a symbol and an example. One of them said that the 1 May Square is a symbol of work, and the Martyr Square is a symbol of martyrdom. [passage omitted]

We also remind you that some of the parties rejected participating in the march. Among these was the Socialist Forces Front, which said the march was not in harmony with the democratic principles of the party. The Party of Algerian Renewal said such initiatives would only intensify the tension. The Ettahadi Movement said that those for reconciliation and dialogue, as they called them, pave the way in front of what the Movement called fundamentalists, and would constitute a mount from which they could pounce on the government. The Algerian General Workers Union barred its unionists from participating in the march. [passage omitted]

FIS Leaders on Conditions for Negotiations

BR0605144994 Paris LIBERATION in French 6 May 94 p 16

[Interview with Anwar Haddam, exiled leader of the Islamic Salvation Front, by Gilles Millet in London; date not given: "Islamic Salvation Front Must Be Recognized as Political Party"—first three paragraphs are LIBERATION introduction]

[Text] On Sunday [8 May] there will be a demonstration in Algiers "for dialogue and reconciliation." So far, the dialogue wanted by President Liamine Zeroual seems to be deadlocked. We met in London with Anwar Haddam, one of the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and an elected member of Parliament since 1991. Currently a refugee in the United States, he gave us his views on the prerequisites for a successful dialogue.

Like most exiled FIS leaders, Anwar Haddam finds it difficult to voice an opinion on the various actions perpetrated in Algeria by the armed islamic groups. While he confirms that assaults against police forces are indeed part of the strategy of fundamentalist leaders, his answers are much foggier when it comes to the murders of intellectuals, journalists, and anonymous civilians. He does condemn the killing of "innocent people." However, as he himself puts it, "we need to agree on the meaning of the word 'innocent.'" In his opinion, "pseudo-intellectuals or pseudo-democrats for whom democracy ends where their failure begins" are not "innocent." In other words, they deserve being fundamentalist targets.

To a direct question on the murders of Algerian journalists, he answers: "I will not get into this. We suggested to our mujahidin brothers that they might hit on those who backed the coup. These are a group of extremist secularists who reject the choice of the Algerian people. It so happens that among them are a number of academics, journalists, politicians, soldiers..." And when the murders appear "dubious" to him, he rather expediently puts the blame on military security forces.

[Millet] Algeria seems to be in a dead end. Do you think talks are still possible between the authorities and fundamentalists?

[Haddam] From the very outset we have asked for a political solution to be found through serious negotiation. Trouble is, those who forcibly seized power have no clear policy on the matter. The FIS is a political party. Therefore, it was not ready to go into armed conflict. After the December 1991 coup, we were faced with a new situation. This is why orders were given to people to organize locally and target all those who were illegally clinging to power, including security forces, which were supposed to preserve the institutions and respect the people's choice. We made good headway and the mujahidins (freedom fighters) now are an organized entity which will abide by FIS decisions in case of serious negotiations.

[Millet] What do you mean by "serious negotiations"?

[Haddam] We asked those currently in power to clarify their position. To begin with, they must acknowledge the fact that political authority may only spring from the choice of the people. Unelected, self-styled "decision-makers" cannot play a part in the talks. Then they must agree to implement a genuine separation between the three powers: Parliament, the executive, and the judiciary. This means that we reject any encroachment on political power by the Armed Forces or intelligence services. Moreover, Algeria's sovereignty and unity must be preserved. Those in power should not be allowed to stir up trouble in areas such as Kabylia, for instance. These prerequisites tie in with another, basic one: All decisions made since the interruption of the democratic process must be repealed, including the ban on the FIS. The FIS must be recognized as a political party.

[Millet] Does this mean that no real negotiations will take place as long as the authorities have not committed themselves to organizing elections?

[Haddam] Indeed it does. Not only must the FIS' legitimacy be recognized, a formal statement must be issued with respect to the reactivation of the electoral process,

and international assurances must be obtained, especially from France. And last but not least, all jailed islamists must be released.

[Millet] Who has been or must be involved in the talks?

[Haddam] The FIS, with the mujahidin's assent, decided that only Abassi Madani, the party's president, and Ali Belhadj, its vice president, are mandated to participate in potential negotiations with those in power. This is what happened. The talks have now ground to a halt because Zeroual (the president of the Republic) has his hands tied and therefore cannot recognize the FIS as a political party.

[Millet] Should the negotiation be successful, will FIS leaders be able to put an end to the violence?

[Haddam] Yes. The FIS leadership, taken as a whole, will be able to do this.

[Millet] And yet, it seems that in the field armed groups no longer recognize the FIS political leadership as legitimate.

[Haddam] Over 80 percent of combatants are now part of a single entity. We share the same objective and same strategy. Now, I do not intend to be more specific; nobody was mandated by the mujahidin to talk about their structures.

[Millet] What do you think of France's current position with regard to Algeria?

[Haddam] On both sides of the Mediterranean there are people who find it hard to shed their colonial mentality. In Algeria, it is a group of soldiers supported by extremist secularists, while in France it is the intelligence services, which have a big hand in your country's foreign policy. France needs to admit that there have been changes in the Maghreb. We can no longer accept the idea that a country still thinks of itself as the colonial power in the region. France has been trying in good faith to help Algeria economically. However, this aid does not reach the Algerian people; only those in power have been benefiting from it. It is time to stop urging the European Union to support Algeria. In any case, we shall not recognize any economic agreement between the current Algerian Government and the international community. In addition, it is intolerable that French authorities should persist in refusing the FIS the right to be represented in France while they accept other Algerian political parties. Some of our followers have been arrested, jailed, or put under house arrest even though they had committed no crime. It is time for the international community, including France, to be able to listen to us directly instead of dealing with people who are in power only because they took it forcibly.

Authorities Must Admit 'Illegal' Status

LD0905100094 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] The failure of yesterday's demonstration for dialogue in Algiers is doubtless partly due to the fact that some of the legal political circles did not take part, but mainly to the fact that it was boycotted by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. According to the daily AL-WATAN, the reason is that the slogans chosen were a concession to the authorities, and the organizers did not enjoy credibility. Furthermore, the FIS apparently blamed these organizers for refusing to call for the release of its leaders and for the rehabilitation of the movement. Evidently the proclamation by the new Algerian authorities of dialogue without exceptions is not meeting with much response from the Islamists of the FIS. It must be said that the FIS is setting very hard conditions before agreeing to hold discussions. For the FIS, before any discussion, the authorities have to admit that they themselves are illegal. Hachemi Sahnouni, a founding member of the FIS, explains:

[Begin Sahnouni recording] In December-January, the authorities contacted us via the dialogue commission. They contacted several Islamist tendencies of the FIS [as heard], and then nothing. They did not contact me or people in contact with me. We can negotiate, in the hope of arriving at the following goal: Namely that the authorities admit that they are illegal, that they do not represent the Algerian people, and they must give in to the demands of the people. Otherwise there is no point in negotiating. If we negotiate in order to allow the current authorities to remain in power, so that the problems of the people remain the same, or perhaps get worse, I see it as being pointless to negotiate. [end recording]

FIS: Officials Admit Canceling Election Was 'Mistake'

PM0605134494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 May 94 p 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Authorities Admit to Salvation Front That Canceling Election Results Was a Mistake"]

[Text] Paris—Sources close to the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] have revealed further details about the contacts made between the detained FIS shaykhs and Algerian authorities. The sources said the contacts "were marathon rounds of dialogue, some of which continued until the early hours of the morning. They were led for the state by Major General Tayyib Daradji, inspector general of the ground forces, and a Constitutional Council member named Kebir. President Zeroual attended two rounds in his capacity as defense minister before his assumption of the presidency. He stressed to FIS shaykhs that he was talking with them in the Army's name." The sources said that the meetings began on the evening of 30 December 1993, and that the last meeting was held on 18 February.

The sources quoted FIS shaykhs as saying that those representing the authorities in the talks "admitted the mistake" of canceling the elections, and tried to persuade FIS shaykhs to participate in the national dialogue conference or recommend someone to represent them. They also asked the shaykhs to issue a statement condemning terrorism. But the shaykhs rejected these demands and offered to issue a joint statement with the regime, specifying the points on which the two sides agree, most importantly the authorities' admission of their mistake in canceling the elections.

The shaykhs also insisted on the "legitimacy" of the jihad, saying it is "the right of the Algerian people, whose rights have been usurped." They demanded that the "person responsible" for the present situation be identified in a joint statement. But the authorities rejected all these demands, only responding to part of the shaykhs' conditions, namely releasing two of them, Shaykhs Ali Djeddi and Abdelkader Khamkham, and allowing them to work freely to get in touch with the detained shaykhs to tell them of the situation, hence enabling them to make their decisions and negotiate once again with the authorities.

It seems that all parties are awaiting the outcome of the 8 May march, which will demand dialogue. The march has been called by the major Algerian parties. The FIS is expected to participate in it powerfully. FIS leaders will watch the march to see how the regime will deal with FIS supporters. The march will also give the FIS the opportunity to test its ability to mobilize the scene once again.

Algerian sources say that the negotiations between the regime and the FIS will resume after 8 May. The most important topic is expected to be "the resumption of the canceled elections."

Sources close to the FIS say that the "Front cannot agree to new elections. Because there is no trust at all in the present authority, and new elections would grant the illegitimate authorities that have assumed power in Algeria since the 2 January 1992 coup the legitimacy they are looking for, thus enabling them to rig the elections completely and to claim that the FIS has lost the popularity it enjoyed in the past, and then resort to violence and terrorism against the Front under an alleged legitimacy."

FIS Denies Reports of Leaders' Deaths

PM0605131894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 May 94 p 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Algeria: Salvation Front Advised Not To Exploit Sunday March"]

[Excerpts] London—Contacts intensified in Algeria yesterday to ensure the success of the march to be staged tomorrow [as published] in support of the dialogue and reconciliation.

Well-informed Algerian sources have revealed to AL-HAYAH that there are fears that some elements might "exploit" the march in favor of a certain party, namely the (disbanded) Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. [passage omitted]

In a statement, a copy of which AL-HAYAH has received in London, FIS denied reports in Algeria of the death of Major General Abdelkader Shabouti and the murder of Said Makhloufi, leaders of the Armed Islamic Movement, the FIS' military arm. The statement said that "the reports (of their death) are circulated by the defeated security services and some communist circles with a view to hampering the good offices of unofficial quarters to calm the situation in the country, and causing confusion in order to thwart the national march" to be staged tomorrow [as published], Sunday. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry: Algerians in Yemen 'Well'

LD0805085294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] In a communique issued yesterday evening, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the members of the Algerian community living in Yemen are well. The communique said that Algeria's ambassador in Sanaa is in constant contact with the members of the Algerian community there to provide them with the needed help.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reassures families who have relatives in Yemen that all measures have been taken in coordination with Algeria's embassy in Sanaa to guarantee consular protection for the Algerian nationals to face the current events in Yemen.

Foreign Ministry Urges Yemen To Begin Dialogue

LD0705235794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] As part of Arab endeavors to contain the crisis in Yemen, today [7 May] Algeria reiterated its preparedness to contribute all it can to the settlement of the Yemeni crisis, calling on both sides of the conflict to stop the fighting.

An authorized source at the Foreign Ministry said today that Algeria is following the events in Yemen with concern and calls on both parties to the conflict to begin a dialogue.

The source added that because of its feeling of responsibility as a member state and as current president of the Arab Maghreb Union, Algeria has recently made a number of political moves in an effort to reconcile the viewpoints of the two parties in conflict.

Gendarmerie, Navy, Air Defense Chiefs Unchanged

LD0605133194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 May 94

[Excerpts] The following appointments have been made in the high command of the National People's Army by President Liamine Zeroual. [passage omitted]

It is worth indicating that these changes have not affected the command of the National Gendarmerie, the Navy, and the Air Defense, since Brigadier Generals Abbes Benghezaiel, Chaabane Ghodbane, and Aouadi Achour remain, respectively, in their posts as commanders of these forces.

Egypt

Mubarak Holds Talks With Turkish President

Receives Demirel at Airport

NC0705084694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0827 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—Turkish President Suleyman Demirel arrived in Cairo before noon today on a one-day visit to Egypt at President Husni Mubarak's invitation.

President Mubarak received the Turkish president at Cairo Airport and accompanied him to the Presidential Office in Heliopolis where he will be given an official reception.

Mubarak, Demirel Hold News Conference

NC0705143494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that his talks with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel today focused on bilateral ties and cooperation, particularly in the field of joint ventures, banks, trade, and tourism.

The president said at a news conference he held with President Demirel this afternoon that the talks also dealt with various topical issues in the Arab region, in addition to international issues.

Commenting on developments in Yemen, President Mubarak affirmed that there is absolutely no plan to send Arab troops to Yemen, noting that he warned the Yemeni president and his vice president before the fighting erupted. He said that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry had previously addressed appeals to the Yemeni parties in this connection.

President Mubarak remarked that it is the entire Yemeni people who will suffer from that fighting.

Touching on Egyptian-Turkish bilateral issues, Mubarak noted that the joint higher committee involving the two countries will meet in June or July to discuss scopes of cooperation in detail.

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel said that his visit to Egypt reaffirms the deep ties that have linked the two countries. He said that Egypt and Turkey are major regional states and that they both seek to bring about peace and stability in the region to serve the people's interests.

Demirel added that he congratulated President Mubarak on the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement on autonomy in Gaza and Jericho in Cairo last Wednesday. He remarked that the Egyptian policy in this context is consistently successful.

Touching on the economic embargo on Iraq and its impact on Turkey, and whether he had discussed this issue with President Mubarak, Demirel said: The issue was raised during the talks. He pointed out that the international community is not prepared to do anything to lift that embargo at present.

President Mubarak opened the news conference with a speech in which he welcomed the Turkish president to Egypt. He said: We made it a habit to meet every once in a while to exchange views on hot issues and those of common interest in the Middle East, as well as other issues like Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mubarak added: We focused in our talks on bilateral relations and discussed many issues in this context. The president noted that a businessmen's delegation will visit Istanbul in June. He also said that they agreed to hold a meeting of the joint Egyptian-Turkish higher committee in June or July to be cochaired by the prime ministers of both countries to discuss bilateral agreements. We consider these agreements very important because we think of Turkey as a major and central regional state and we want to maintain strong and good ties with it, Mubarak said.

President Demirel then delivered a speech in which he thanked President Mubarak and said: It is my pleasure to visit Egypt as a guest of my dear brother President Husni Mubarak. I feel I am in my home in this great country because the close ties between Egypt and Turkey are built on foundations of a common cultural and historical heritage.

He said those bonds strengthen fraternal relations between the peoples of Egypt and Turkey. He said every high-level visit between the two countries prove the depth of bilateral relations. He said the two countries, which he described as crossroads for several continents, have common political objectives.

President Demirel said Egypt and Turkey are trying to achieve economic development while sparing no effort to help bring about peace and stability in their common region.

He added: During our talks today, our exchange of viewpoints was fruitful. We reviewed all aspects of bilateral cooperation and stressed during the talks that there is not any difference in our views toward political issues.

Demirel went on: We agreed that the relations of economic cooperation between Egypt and Turkey need further efforts and support to match the strong political relations between us.

He stressed that stronger cooperation will reflect positively on the peoples of the whole region. He explained that Egypt and Turkey are the biggest countries in the region, and they both feel they are responsible for the region's peace and stability.

President Demirel said that he and President Mubarak discussed several regional problems and reviewed the situation in the Balkans and in the Caucasus. The former Soviet Union is being restructured and we are interested in such matters because they affect both Egypt and Turkey.

President Demirel said he was pleased with his meeting with President Mubarak. He added: I congratulated President Mubarak on the success of his efforts, which were rewarded by the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement in Cairo. I also told him that he should consider the signing of this agreement his birthday present.

The Turkish president expressed hope that the 50-year-old Middle East conflict will come to an end and that a new vista of opportunity will open for Egyptian-Turkish cooperation. He said that the two countries should walk "hand in hand" toward a new horizon of peace and prosperity in the region.

The two leaders then fielded questions by journalists.

Answering a question on the events in Yemen, President Mubarak said: "I wish to make it clear that we warned the Yemeni president of the implications of the Yemeni crisis, even before the fighting started. I told the Yemenis that their troops are deployed close to each other and that unless they separate them, fighting may break out and will be hard to stop. They did not listen."

I sent several appeals to the Yemeni president and the Egyptian Foreign Ministry did the same, Mubarak said. I told Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih: "It would be wise if you separate the troops and try to calm down the situation. You have to sit together and work out your differences. Otherwise, the entire Yemeni people will suffer."

President Mubarak added: "Fighting then erupted in Yemen. They are exchanging shells and accusations. They bombarded each other's airports."

The Arab League is today meeting at the level of representatives, Mubarak said. He added: I do not think that there are any plans to send Arab forces to Yemen. Newspaper reports to this effect do not match reality. I think that all the Arab League can do is appeal for an end to the fighting and for a peaceful solution that would enable the Yemenis to go on with their lives. The current fighting is a loss for all Yemenis, Mubarak stated.

Answering a question on Egyptian-Turkish cooperation, Mubarak said: We have discussed several areas of cooperation, including tourism, but I do not wish to go into detail. The Higher Egyptian-Turkish Committee, which is cochaired by the two prime ministers, will discuss various aspects of cooperation, such as joint projects and banking agreements. Mubarak pointed out that his talks with Demirel touched on trade, friendship agreements, and the formation of a committee on tourism.

A journalist asked Mubarak if there had been progress concerning the proposal Mubarak made during his visit to Turkey in February concerning Egyptian-Turkish-Saudi cooperation. Mubarak answered by saying: Let us begin with Egyptian-Turkish cooperation. If another country wishes to join us, it is up to that country to make its wishes known.

Asked whether Turkey can play a role in the Middle East peace process, President Mubarak said: I would not specify precisely this role. However, I can frankly say that Turkey is a strong state in the region and so is Egypt. Turkey is a very important state in the Middle East.

Asked whether he had discussed with the Turkish president regional cooperation in fighting terrorism, President Mubarak said: We discussed this topic. The two countries' foreign ministers will discuss the kind of cooperation that can exist between the two countries in this domain, in addition to discussing the possibility of other countries joining this cooperation. We will do this quietly in the beginning to see what this cooperation will produce.

Asked whether he discussed with President Mubarak the economic embargo imposed on Iraq and its effect on Turkey, President Demirel said: We discussed this topic but did not go into detail. As you know, the international community and the alliance (formed during the Gulf War) are very sensitive about the Gulf war and Iraq's stand. In my personal opinion, it is [not further identified] against these sanctions. However, the international community is not prepared to do anything in this respect. Demirel said: The sanctions have harmed the Iraqi people, not just the Iraqi president.

Asked about his concept of cooperation between Egypt and Turkey to confront terrorism in the region, Demirel said: Cooperation between Egypt and Turkey is excellent and there are no problems. What we discussed today and what we will discuss in the future will be beneficial for the Egyptian and Turkish peoples.

Commenting on Demirel's remarks, President Mubarak said: We are anxious to have good cooperation between Egypt and Turkey in all domains.

Demirel Leaves Cairo for Home

NC0705170094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and his delegation left Cairo for home this evening after a visit of several hours to Egypt.

He was seen off at the airport by President Husni Mubarak.

Earlier in the evening, the Turkish President met President Mubarak at the Presidential Palace, and Mubarak then accompanied him to the airport.

Mubarak Receives Call From Yemeni President

NC0705101694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0938 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received a telephone call from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih who explained the developments in Yemen over the past 24 hours.

President Mubarak stressed the need to halt military operations between the two sides immediately, contain the worsening situation, and take measures to initiate a dialogue for the good of the Yemeni people.

During the telephone conversation, President Mubarak warned of the Yemeni arena turning into an uncontrollable all-out war.

Yesterday, President Mubarak addressed an appeal to the Yemeni leaders asking them to stop the military operations. He urged President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, as head of the country, to adopt decisions and initiatives to preserve the Yemeni people's interests.

AL-AHRAM Regrets Developments in Yemen

NC0705081094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper regrets what is happening in Yemen. It says it is difficult for an Arab to see brothers shed each other's blood in the same country, destroying everything that the one Yemeni people have both in the north and south.

In today's editorial, the paper notes that since it began a few months ago the Yemeni crisis has portended grave consequences and that it entails grave dangers, especially since the exchange of air bombardments in Aden and Sanaa and resolutions declaring the vice president illegitimate and dismissing the defense minister.

The paper says the Arabs have not learned much from the hard lessons they have suffered in their modern history. What is happening in Yemen is the best proof of this, as the Declaration of Unity through harmony and peace is retracted and replaced by war and conflict.

The newspaper notes Egypt's efforts to contain the Yemeni crisis before it worsens. President Mubarak, it says, has sent an envoy who has almost become a resident there. So far he has addressed two appeals to the Yemeni brothers to stop subjecting their country to destruction, but all this has been in vain.

Commentary: Yemenis Should Choose Own Rulers

NC0705164594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 6 May 94

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "The Leaders of Yemen Must Fear God and Heed the Interests of Their Country and Their Nation"]

[Excerpts] While all the world's nations are rushing to solve their problems peacefully and seeking to establish political and economic blocs to meet the requirements of the new world order, and while the Arab nation is doing all it can to remove the aftermath of the criminal Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and bring the Arabs together once again, the Arab nation is hit by a new horrible tragedy, as if the costly disasters and woes it has faced over the past decades were not enough. By this new plight we mean the outbreak of unprecedented vicious fighting among the sons of fraternal Yemen in the north and the south. [passage omitted]

Seeing such an Arab plight and painful tragedy, it was inevitable for Egypt, as always, to rush to save the people of Yemen from destruction. Egypt proceeded from its historical and pan-Arab responsibility toward the Arab nation. The swift Egyptian moves were embodied by the many contacts President Husni Mubarak held with Arab leaders to put an end to the bloody conflict in fraternal Yemen, and by Egypt's call for an urgent Arab League Council meeting to appeal to the warring parties to end the armed struggle, stop the bloodshed, and preserve the unity of fraternal Yemen.

Thanks to his pan-Arab sentiments, farsightedness, and discerning vision, President Mubarak realized the seriousness of the Yemeni crisis at its eruption. He worked seriously, in cooperation and coordination with the Arab leaders, to avoid the bloody conflict. He repeatedly sent special envoys to Sanaa and Aden in an attempt to heal the rift and bring the viewpoints of the brothers closer. But it seems that the Arab nation has hired forces, blinded by fanaticism, working for their own interests. They worked to escalate the crisis, not realizing its serious implications against the unity of the people of Yemen, its negative impact on the course of Arab solidarity, and its direct threat to the entire pan-Arab security. Yemen's important strategic and geographic position cannot be ignored at all. [passage omitted]

Egypt is once again appealing to the leaders of Yemen to fear God and heed the interests of their country, nation, and religion. It is appealing to them to rise to their pan-Arab responsibility and to rush to suppress the sedition before it becomes too great to control. This

requires that the parties sit down together at the negotiating table in a spirit of brotherhood and love and renounce enmity and hatred. More importantly, the people of Yemen should be given a chance to express their will and give their decisive word as to who should rule them through constitutional channels. Then, the enemies of the Yemeni unity will not be able to sell their commodity, the masks will fall from their faces, and peace will once again prevail on the land of fraternal Yemen. Woe betide those who want to turn the wheel of history backward.

Papers View Escalation in Yemen

NC0905074894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—In their editorials today, AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH express deep regret at the escalation in Yemen, where there is a strong possibility of a long-term war in which many innocent people will be killed and the country's economic resources will be destroyed.

AL-AHRAM says the military escalation was accompanied by a political one as Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's rejected any Arab or non-Arab mediation or entry of Arab troops to disengage the warring sons of Yemen in the north and south. Salih, the paper notes, justified this by saying these events are a Yemeni internal affair.

The paper expresses the fear that secret foreign intervention may take place by providing the two sides, or one of them, with enough weapons to prolong the armed struggle, especially since some quarters do not wish well to Yemen or the Arabs in general.

The paper recalls the tragedy Lebanon suffered for 16 continuous years.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says no one imagined that the unity between the two parts of Yemen would collapse so soon and turn into a war between the two sides.

The door is now open to all opponents of Yemeni unity to show their opposition by taking sides and providing either side with money and weapons, the paper says.

AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses astonishment that the Yemeni people should be divided by bloody wars as they face terrible problems, such as the country's inability to meet its people's basic needs for food and shelter. Indeed, the paper adds, many schools and educational facilities were built by grants from Egypt, some Gulf states, and other fraternal countries.

Prime Minister Returns From Jordan

NC0605180594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1749 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and his accompanying delegation returned to Cairo from Amman this afternoon following a two-day visit during which he led Egypt's delegation to the meetings of the Higher Joint Egyptian-Jordanian Committee.

Sidqi on Dialogue With Terrorists, Foreign Policy

NC0605183394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 6 May 94

[Excerpt] Amman, 6 May (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi stated that Egypt's leadership and security organs are confronting terrorism and terrorists with the firmness and strength they deserve and that all their activities are confronted decisively. He said: We should not worry about Egypt.

Speaking at a meeting with members of the Egyptian community in Jordan before leaving Amman this afternoon, the prime minister said that compared with other countries, terrorism in Egypt is decreasing in a big way.

Answering a question, he said that attempts were made over a long period to hold a dialogue with these terrorists at times between 1980 and 1987 or 1988. He added: The dialogue continued in one way or another but they were not ready to listen to the voice of reason and their ideas rendered the dialogue useless. When they started to use bullets and kill, the security organs confronted them decisively and firmly.

Dr. Sidqi stressed that achieving a lasting, just, and honorable peace in the region lies at the core of Egypt's policy. He said: Egypt welcomes the Israeli-Palestinian Agreement signed in Cairo on Wednesday on the basis that it is a step toward the comprehensive solution for all the countries in the region. [passage omitted]

Musa Leaves for South Africa, London

NC0905053394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] An Egyptian delegation led by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left for South Africa early this morning to attend the inauguration of President Nelson Mandela tomorrow, Tuesday. Before leaving, Musa expressed Egypt's happiness at the new era in South Africa, which has culminated the long struggle of the people there. This, he said, is a major success for Africa. He said he will convey to President Mandela a message from Husni Mubarak as president of Egypt and chairman of the OAU, which is pleased with the independence of this big country that will soon join the organization.

The foreign minister pointed out Egypt's contribution to the supervision of South Africa's elections, which were completely free. He said Egypt and South Africa will work to promote their relations, and noted that Egypt will resume diplomatic relations with South Africa tomorrow.

The foreign minister said he will leave South Africa for London Wednesday on an official visit to Britain. He

said he will hold talks with British Prime Minister John Major, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, and senior Foreign Office and House of Commons officials on issues of concern to the two countries and ways to boost bilateral ties. He said the Lockerbie issue will be one of the topics of discussion with the British officials.

Visit of Tunisian Foreign Minister Reported

Yahya Arrives With Message for Mubarak

NC0805062894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—Habib Ben Yahya, Tunisian minister of foreign affairs and personal envoy of Tunisian President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, arrived here this evening on a few days' visit to Egypt. He stated upon his arrival that he is carrying a written message from President Ben Ali to President Husni Mubarak as part of the high-level and constant consultations between the two countries.

Terms Meeting With Mubarak 'Productive'

NC0805102694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a message from Tunisian President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali during an audience today with Habib Ben Yahya, Tunisian foreign minister and the Tunisian president's personal envoy, who is currently in Cairo.

The Tunisian envoy said after the meeting that the message is part of the continuous consultation and cooperation between Egypt and Tunisia.

He said the meeting was productive and that they had reviewed various African issues because the date of the forthcoming African summit in Tunis is approaching. He added that Tunisia will be honored by the participation of President Mubarak, current chairman of the OAU, in this summit so they can benefit from his experience in the African arena.

He said the meeting also dealt with ways to consolidate and develop bilateral relations and expressed his country's desire to arrange more meetings between the two countries' officials to enhance bilateral cooperation.

Ends Visit, Departs

NC0905053194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 9 May 94

[Excerpt] Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya left Cairo early this morning at the end of a two-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Tantawi Leaves for U.S. Visit

NC0705081194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, left Cairo for the United States this morning on a visit of several days. He was leading a large military delegation made up of senior armed forces commanders.

During the visit, he is scheduled to have talks with U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry and other U.S. Administration officials on military cooperation between the two countries and the military aid program for Egypt.

Parliament Extends President's Decree Powers

NC0805141994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 May 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—The People's Assembly held a meeting today chaired by Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur. It approved the president of the Republic's decree extending Law No. 29 of 1972 empowering the president of the Republic to issue decrees having the strength of law. The law is extended for three years and expires at the end of fiscal year 1994-1996. The bill was opposed by 11 members of the opposition and independents.

Commenting on opposition to the bill by deputy Lutfi Wakid of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, Kamal al-Shadhili, minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs, said that secrecy and speed in approving arms deals are necessary. Thus, the president of the Republic was authorized to issue such decrees, noting that submitting the bill to the People's Assembly in accordance with the law takes place after the president authorizes it and while the authorization is still valid. He stressed that the circumstances the Arab nation has been passing through require that Egypt have a strong army. [passage omitted]

Labor, Nasirite Parties To Coordinate Policies

NC0705193894 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 28 Apr-4 May 94 p 2

[Report by 'Abd-al-'Azim Darwish: "The Decision of the Labor and Nasirite Parties To Coordinate Policies Could Be the Prelude To Setting Up a United Opposition Front"]

[Text] The Islamist-oriented Labour Party of Ibrahim Shukri and the erstwhile anti-Islamist Nasserist Democratic Party of Dia'-al- Din Dawud have decided to establish a joint secretariat for policy coordination in a move seen by some opposition sources as the first step toward the creation of an opposition "national front."

The move was reminiscent of Labour's attempt seven years ago to set up a national front to contest the 1987 parliamentary elections. The result, however, was smaller in scale—a trilateral alliance grouping Labour, the Liberal Party of Mustafa Kamil Murad and the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, which was dubbed the Islamic Alliance at the time.

Labour's rapprochement with the Nasserists—who are traditionally anti-Islamist—raised a few eye-brows because its alliance with the Brotherhood is very much alive. The Liberals walked out last year.

Hilmi Murad, Labour's deputy chairman, denied that the decision to close ranks with the Nasserists signalled that they were "in" and the Brotherhood was "out." For his part, Dia'-al-Din Dawud said the Nasserist Party was prepared for cooperation with all, and not only Labour.

Murad told Al-Ahram Weekly the move is "the start of forging cooperation with all opposition parties which may be ready to cooperate. By coordinating policies and exchanging views on public issues, the opposition will gain in strength and some type of front may be born." He said other opposition parties will be "contacted."

Dia'-al-Din Dawud said the Nasserist Party has no "political animosities. Our hands are stretched out for cooperation with all, in any sphere where a meeting of viewpoints may be possible." He said the Nasserists' relationship with Labour was "not of a special nature."

Offering his explanation of the developments that led to the coordination agreement, Dawud said that since the call for a national dialogue was issued by President Husni Mubarak, opposition parties have been holding coordination meetings. These meetings, he said, grouped not only the Nasserists and Labour but also the Wafd and the Progressive Unionist (al-Tajammu') parties and others. "Cooperation with all parties is continuing... The decision (to coordinate policies) with Labour is part of this framework and is part of meetings that are also taking place with others, and even more intensively with al-Tajammu'."

Murad did not deny the apparent contradiction between the Nasserists and Labour's Islamist orientation. "Yes, there are contradictions between us and any other opposition party... It is only natural that our programmers should be different. But some sort of cooperation and coordination is necessary."

Dawud, speaking in the same vein, said the leaders of all opposition parties had agreed to set up a coordination committee, but it has not been formed yet. "This goes to show that coordination will not be confined to Labour and the Nasserists. The principle has been approved in general."

Murad, asked why the rapprochement began with the Nasserists, although other parties appeared to be closer in position to Labour, said the Labour-Nasserists agreement "came by chance." He said the meeting between the two parties was also to include the Wafd and the al-Tajammu' "but this did not happen, for emergency reasons." He expressed hope the rapprochement will be "the nucleus of a national front." Asked whether the rapprochement was meant to make up for dwindling popular support resulting from Labour-Brotherhood differences, Murad replied: "Who said that popular support is declining? The attendance at party rallies is overwhelming and our newspaper has a gret readership." He said Labour's close relations with the Brotherhood will continue.

Dawud, answering a similar question, claimed the Nasserists have a stronger political presence than any other party, including the ruling National Democratic Party. "This is because we are the party which cares about the interests of the masses and which has been associated with policies that realised justice, equality and security for all the working factions of the people," he said.

Like Murad, Dawud expressed hope that a national front would be born. "I do not believe that the formation of this front will be difficult. I think that we are being driven by developments in the direction of its formation."

Opposition Leaders To Join Dialogue Committee

NC0805062794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 8 May 94

[Except] Kamal al-Shadhili, minister of People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs and assistant secretary general of the National Democratic Party [NDP], has announced that the president of the republic has issued a decree which incorporates the leaders of the opposition parties into the National Dialogue Committee, which will be set up by a decree in the next few days. The 35-member committee will consolidate the march of democracy and involve all sectors of the public in serving the national interest. [passage omitted]

Democratic Unionist Party Elects Chairman

NC0805102594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—The Democratic Unionist Party today elected Ibrahim Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im Turk as party chairman to replace Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im Turk, who passed away recently.

In a statement after his election today, Turk voiced support for President Mubarak's successful foreign policy, which helps the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

He reiterated the party's support for the national dialogue called for by President Mubarak, noting that this call embodies the climate of democracy, freedom, and the supremacy of the law that prevails in Egypt.

GCC States Call On Yemenis To End Fighting

LD0705191694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Riyadh, 7 May (KUNA)—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member-states have called on the Yemeni leaders to respond "to the initiatives calling for an end to the fighting and to resort to reason and dialogue to solve their differences".

A statement issued after the meeting of the GCC foreign ministers or their representatives, which was held here today, called on the leaders of Yemen to put the interests of Yemen and its people above all considerations and stop the battles, fighting and practise utmost self-restraint to spare blood and protect lives and property.

In the statement, the GCC member-states expressed their strong anxiety and regret "about the dangerous and painful impending breakdown witnessed by the Republic of Yemen as a result of the battles and fighting that broke out between brothers."

The foreign ministers of Kuwait, Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the ambassadors of the State of Qatar and the Sultanate of Oman—who acted for the foreign ministers who will arrive here later—met here at midday today.

Diplomatic sources said that the meeting tackled the preparations for the 5th meeting of the GCC's foreign ministers and their counterparts in the European Union, which will be held here tomorrow, in addition to the current situation in Yemen.

They pointed out that the final statement, which will be issued tomorrow, will include reference to the events that erupted in Yemen last week.

The sources added that the meeting dealt with some of the points included in the EU's proposals and will be discussed tomorrow.

They said that the Council's foreign ministers had coordinated among themselves to respond to these points so that an agreement, which would contribute to the development of relations between the two sides, could be reached.

GCC Statement

LD0805131694 Riyadh SPA in English 1224 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Riyadh, May 8, SPA—The General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has issued the following statement on the developments of the situation in the Republic of Yemen:

"While following with grave concern and deep sorrow the serious and painful deteriorations in the Republic of Yemen as a result of the eruption of fighting and battles between brothers int [as received], the Gulf Cooperation Council states appeal to the Yemeni leaders to put the interests of Yemen and its people above all other considerations, put an end to the battles and fighting and practice the highest degrees of self-restraint to halt the bloodshed and protect lives and properties".

"They call on Yemeni leaders to respond to initiatives calling for an end to the fighting and resort to reason and dialogue to resolve differences," the statement said.

Yemen

Southern Forces Attack Targets in Sanaa

Presidential Palace Said in Flames

NC0605142794 Paris AFP in English 1418 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, May 6 (AFP)—Southern warplanes fired missiles at the presidential palace in the Yemeni capital Sanaa on Friday [6 May], officials said here.

The attack left the palace in flames, said the officials from the Yemeni Socialist Party of deposed vice-president 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

His forces have been battling the northern army of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Scuds Fired at Sanaa

NC0605180794 Paris AFP in English 1758 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, May 6 (AFP)—Southern forces fired six Scud long-range missiles at economic and civilian targets in Yemen's capital on Friday, but without causing damage or casualties, the northern General People's Congress (GPC) said.

A GPC spokesman, quoted by the official news agency SABA', said one of the missiles exploded near Sanaa international airport and another three in mountainous areas. It gave no location for the other two.

"These missiles caused only horror for children, women and the elderly," said the spokesman, warning that the southern forces of the Yemen Socialist Party would be tried for war crimes.

He denied earlier reports from the south that the presidential palace in Sanaa had been hit.

With Yemen's four-year-old union in peril, President 'Ali Abdallah Salih's GPC has said its troops are bearing down on the southern port city of Aden with the aim of capturing it.

The forces of Salih, a northerner, are locked in a bitter struggle with those of Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, a southerner, who was dismissed by parliament on Thursday night at the end of a first day of heavy fighting.

Southern officials said their planes had hit the presidential palace with missiles and set it ablaze.

Sanaa Denies Palace Attacked

NC0605182694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1813 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, 6 May (MENA)—A responsible Yemeni source this evening denied reports that the Presidential Palace in Sanaa came under air strikes from the South Yemeni Air Force.

In a statement to SABA", the northern source said that the forces in the south fired five long-range Scud missiles at Sanaa, noting that two of the missiles fell in mountainous areas, one fell near the airport in Sanaa, and two missiles failed to explode.

The source affirmed that the missiles caused no material or human losses.

Official on Battles, Scud Attack

JN0705075294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 May 94

[Statement by unidentified "military source" at the Defense Ministry and General Staff Command; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] With God's help and the resolve of men dedicated and faithful to the homeland and its unity and its democratic option, and thanks to the rallying of the masses of our people behind our valiant Armed Forces and security forces all over the homeland, the heroes of our valiant Armed Forces have continued to achieve victories, to besiege the elements of apostasy and secession, to inflict successive defeats on them, and to force them to surrender and to heed the people's will, their Constitutional institutions, and their national options of unity, democracy, and advancement.

Units of our valiant Armed Forces of the 8th Brigade of the Special Forces, the 56th Brigade, and the al-Wahdah Brigades have managed, thanks to God's grace and massive support from our masses in the Governorates of al-Bayda' and Abyan, to topple the last defensive fortifications in the region [word indistinct] and move across Mukayris in the direction of Abyan, where, at 0230 yesterday [2330 GMT on 5 May], they joined the forces of the al-'Amaliqah Brigade in Abyan Governorate. Thus, these forces have reassembled and formed, together, a striking force in the hands of unity and constitutional legitimacy to inflict defeat on the forces of apostasy which have deviated from the popular will and consensus. At the same time, the heroes of the al-'Amaliqah forces continued to present valiant resistance to the ferocious, aggressive attack by the forces of treachery and treason. The al-'Amaliqah forces fought fierce battles and confronted an intensive sea and air offensive. During these battles, they destroyed four tanks and four armored cars and shot down four of the attacking aircraft of the forces of secession.

Large numbers of the attacking forces have surrendered and declared their defection to the al-'Amaliqah forces and their support for unity and constitutional legitimacy against secession. At the same time, the heroes of the 2d Armored Division in al-Rahah have waged violent, heroic, and fierce battles against the aggressor forces, which were dispatched by the elements of apostasy and secession from the al-'Anad and the 'Abbud and al-Buzah Brigades, and forced them to retreat after they beat back numerous attacks and valiantly confronted the attacks by the enemy aircraft affiliated with the elements of apostasy, which have been carrying out extensive sorties to attack the heroes of the 2d Armored Brigade since the day before yesterday. Our heroes of the air defense forces downed three of the attacking enemy aircraft.

In another development, the al-Hamzah Camp Forces and the 3d Infantry Brigade are continuing their steady advancement to achieve their objectives and to pursue the rebelling secessionist elements and forces. In a cowardly and treacherous action, which reveals the extent of the hidden rancor and plotting, exposes the true nature of the evil and wicked intentions against the freedom and security and safety of the people, and which clearly shows the truth of that uncivilized project that developed in the minds of that criminal gang as a bloody project for killing, terror, sabotage, destruction, and enmity toward the homeland and people and their achievements, the leaders of the separatist, criminal gang, led by war criminal al-Bid and one of his traitorous henchmen, Haytham Qasim Tahir, carried out a cowardly missile raid on the valiant capital city of Sanaa, the capital of the unity state and the symbol of steadfastness and victory, targeting innocent citizens, civilians targets, and vital installations in it. However, God's will was lying in wait for their rancor and wickedness. Their treacherous missiles did not succeed, and some of them sustained damage in the air.

At 1345 [1045 GMT], the forces of treachery and treason indiscriminately fired five Scud missiles against the inhabitants of Sanaa and civilian installations in the city. Two of them landed but did not explode. The three others exploded. No significant damage occurred, except for spreading panic among children, the elderly, and women who were asleep at the time of the treacherous and cowardly attack.

The forces of rancor and rebellion also carried out similar missile raids on the valiant city of Ta'izz. However, these missiles failed to achieve their objectives, except for further frightening the peaceful residents of the city, which they deceitfully wanted to be the venue for signing the accord document. God has willed that this treacherous aggression be repulsed and the criminal killers be defeated after their true nature was exposed to the people and the world, and after the masks were removed from their ugly faces, which deceived no one other than their hateful persons and deluded loyalists.

As part of their hostile schemes and objective of escalating the comprehensive war and spreading sedition in the homeland, those forces launched air raids on the

headquarters of security and the al-Mashari' camp area in the city of 'Ataq in Shabwah Governorate, targeting the lives of heroic security men in Shabwah and the lives of our innocent citizens, who confronted the forces of apostasy, secession, and repression with unparalleled valiance, forcing them to retreat.

The source added that the secessionist, rebellious forces of oppression and aggression will never escape just and urgent punishment as a result of all that has taken place, the bloodshed that they have caused, and their looting of public funds. They are marching down the road to suicide after they squandered the people's funds to purchase arms in order to maliciously kill the people, their children, and the personnel of their Armed and Security Forces. They want to destroy all the political, developmental, and democratic achievements that have been realized in the homeland throughout the march of the Yemeni 26 September and 14 October revolutions. At the same time, they pushed our people and their Armed Forces into the incinerator of death and destruction in a suicidal losing battle, during which they had their share of defeat, shame, and disgrace.

These criminals and slaughterers are pushing deceived, innocent people into the remaining military units to kill them and shed their blood in the battlefield against their brothers and comrades-in-arms without a clear objective or honorable purpose. Rather, the sole objective of that criminal, secessionist, oppressive gang is to enjoy peace, leisure, and safety after they evacuated their families and relatives abroad, looted public funds, sold the people's public facilities, collected huge amounts of money and put them in secret accounts in foreign banks. As for the down-trodden Yemeni people who are suffering from the crisis they have fabricated, whether in Aden, Ta'izz, Lahij, Hadhramaut, Sanaa, Abyan, Sa'dah, Shabwah, al-Hudaydah, al-Maharah, and elsewhere, their share has been death and destruction.

The source refuted the false allegations being reiterated by their trumpets. The source explained that what is being broadcast about the military situation calls for ridicule and disdain. In addition, it is meant to deceive foreign public opinion. As for the Yemenis, they are being kept abreast of all the facts. These allegations reflect the state of defeat, weakness, and the blind confusion within the gang of rebellion and crime as it prepares for packing up to flee abroad.

The source said it is ridiculous for this gang and its sources to continue to talk about missiles from their aircraft hitting the Presidential Palace when they know these are false claims, that citizens in these and other cities know this, and that those whom it is trying to convince outside the country do not believe it. The best proof of this is that it has continued to talk, until yesterday, about the steadfastness and fighting of the Ba Suhayb Forces in Dhamar, when the fighting with these troops was settled last Wednesday [4 May], less than three hours after they had ignited the fire of war at the behest of that secessionist gang, led by war criminal al-Bid and his secessionist clique.

Those troops surrendered to the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy. In addition, the commander of the Ba Suhayb Camp, Colonel Thabit Muthanna Dawwas, half brother of war criminal Haytham Qasim Tahir, was captured two days ago by the forces of unity and legitimacy. He is being interrogated now, after igniting fighting and then leaving the personnel of his camp to confront the fire of battle and death. He fled less than one hour after he issued orders. We do not know what else the source can claim or brag about when it watched, along with the whole world, Colonel Dawwas on television yesterday, explaining the truth, speaking about the defeat inflicted on his troops and the catastrophe he caused.

As for talking about the steps taken by those units, which are under the control of the secessionist gang, it is a laughable matter that insults the people's intelligence and does not merit a reply because its falseness will be exposed by stark facts. Many facts will expose the delusion and deception practiced by the propaganda machine of the criminal secessionist gang, so our people and foreign public opinion will know how low this gang sinks in it lies. These elements think they are smart enough to fool people. But lies will eventually be exposed and stark facts will continue to refute falsehood and delusion. Our people realize this is a lying, criminal, and evil gang. It sustains defeats daily, because, by its arrogant false pride, it wanted to stand against the people's will, which springs from God's will. If God helps you, none can overcome you. [Koranic verse]

More Scuds Fired at Sanaa

JN0805042394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0332 GMT 8 May 94

[Statement by "responsible military source" at the Defense Ministry and the General Staff Command on 8 May—read by announcer]

[Text] In the last moments of the defeat of the suicidal forces of apostasy and secession and as a crazy expression of the hysteria of death and annihilation, the criminal forces fired a number of Scud missiles at Sanaa and areas of the Sanaa Governorate at 2310 [2010 GMT] yesterday, Saturday, targeting secure citizens and vital and strategic civilian installations. However, thanks to God, this fierce offensive of more than five missiles failed to inflict any losses; it only terrorized citizens in the areas where they landed.

In a related development, the military source stressed that the decision made by the dismissed Haytham Qasim Tahir in the name of the defense minister declaring a general mobilization and calling up the reserves is considered baseless and illegitimate because it was issued by someone who has lost every military and official authority. It is a decision that expresses adherence to the delusion of survival. It has been proven practically that

his end as well as the end of all secessionist forces rebelling against the Constitutional legitimacy has approached and is, God willing, imminent. We are confident that those who deceived the officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers in our Armed Forces' units, over which they hold sway and which they sent to death, will not be able to mobilize civilians and those helped by circumstances to remain outside the military service. They survived and were [word indistinct] the savage plotting ordeal and were confident they will be away from it.

O Sons of our Armed Forces—officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the military units under the pressure of the rebelling elements in the secessionist leaderships of the Socialist Party: We address this appeal to you and ask you not to obey the orders of the rebelling gangs among the adventurous and hegemonistic leaderships of the Socialist Party. We address to you a sincere brotherly appeal to join the forces defending unity and Constitutional legitimacy, which are the forces of all the people, and not the forces of a gang or party. In the same manner as they protected the people's gains and accomplishments, these forces are today very heroically, efficiently, and capably working to rid you of the domination and hegemony of the gangs of apostasy, secession and adventurism among the secessionist military gangs. We make the pledge of the free and loyal to you that you will find every concern to secure your life, preserve your dignity, and restore your military honor. The stand of the legitimate and Constitutional leadership, which is defending unity, along with the officers and soldiers of the 3d Brigade in 'Imran, is sufficient evidence and cogent proof of the integrity and sincerity of the legitimate leadership in which we, as well as all Yemeni people, confide and consider their legitimate representative and the protector of all the Yemeni people's interests.

O sons of the Armed forces—soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers of the units under the control of the military gangs in the Socialist Party: We demand that you not throw yourselves into the pit of an unfeasible bloody confrontation or suffer by standing with those outlawed gangs that broke away from law, Constitutional legitimacy, and unity. Let us say enough of fighting, suicide, destruction, and bloodshed. We call on you to join the ranks of Constitutional legitimacy. You will receive all care and attention from a loving and compassionate brother. This is a guarantee and a free promise in the name of the people and before Arab and world public.

YSP's Al-Bid Denies Attack on Dhamar Power Station

EA0605192894 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], has greeted the masses of the Yemeni people and their unitary armed forces. He affirmed in a statement to the Channel Two that the Yemeni people with vast experience of the unity and democracy. [sentence as heard] He affirmed that the unitary armed forces never attacked the power station in Dhamar and that the breakdown of the station was due to the shelling carried out by the central security forces in Dhamar. He affirmed that the economic installations belong to the whole Yemeni people and pointed out that all Yemenis are equal regardless of their birthplace. He called on the masses to join their hands with the armed forces to fight against those who seek to ignite war.

Foreign Minister: Northern Forces Have Upper Hand

NC0705105994 Paris AFP in English 1044 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Doha, May 7 (AFP)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salih Basindwah called on southern leaders to surrender Saturday [7 May] saying northern forces had the upper hand as fighting raged near Aden.

Basindwah, a northerner, told Qatar's state-run radio that southern forces loyal to Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid had fired 13 Scud missiles at the capital Sanaa since fighting erupted on Thursday.

But he said northern forces backing President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih still had the advantage, saying 12 southern al-Bid warplanes had been shot down since Thursday.

"The military situation is not developing in the favour" of southern leaders he said, calling on them to "turn themselves in immediately", pledging that they would receive "a fair trial."

"Fierce fighting is raging near Aden," the main southern port- city, "between the (northern) army and the rebels", Basindwah said in a reference to al-Bid's forces.

He added that Aden was under a northern blockade to "force the outlaws to surrender."

Diplomats in Yemen said that a large concentration of northern troops was seen 50 kilometres (35 miles) north of Aden.

Meanwhile Basindwah said the situation in Sanaa and all the northern provinces was "calm."

He also said northern Yemenis were opposed to an emergency meeting of the Arab League to discuss the spiralling civil war as it was an "internal affair."

His comments came just before the Arab League was due to hold an emergency meeting in Cairo to discuss an Egyptian proposal to send a peacekeeping force to Yemen.

Clashes Spread to Aden, Surrounding Areas

North Forces Advance Toward Aden

JN0805061994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0520 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A responsible military source at the Defense Ministry and the General Staff Command has stated the following:

For the fourth day, the heroes of our valiant Armed Forces, the forces of the people, unity, and Constitutional legitimacy, and protectors of democracy, have continued their splendid victories in all fields of confrontation with the forces of evil and rebellion against legitimacy and disavowal of the people and unity. They draw success from God, supporter of the brave soldiers who are loyal to their people, homeland, and unity.

At 1300 yesterday, the 2d Armored Brigade managed to advance and join the al-'Amaliqah Brigade to form a heroic combat bridge toward the attainment of the main objectives in the last chapter of the battle for unity and democracy. They are now confidently advancing, supported by the 13th and 56th Brigades and the al-Wahdah Brigades in the direction of Aden Governorate. They are confronting the desperate and defeatist remnants of the secessionist gang forces.

These forces are currently waging brave battles in the al-'Alam area, 20 km from the beloved economic and commercial capital, Aden, approaching the last dens of the gang of plotting and secession in the Socialist Party leadership.

These forces managed to besiege the misguided elements of the Shamsan Brigade. A large number of the brigade's officers and soldiers surrendered and their weapons, equipment, and vehicles were captured.

In the Lahij Governorate, the 6th al-Wahdah [Unity] Brigade and the 2d Independent Armored Brigade waged heroic and brave battles during which they managed to destroy the (?retreating) units of the 'Abbud Brigade and the secessionist gang militias. More than 40 troops and 200 militiamen surrendered and joined the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy.

In Abyan Governorate, and in an effort to fortify our Armed Forces in this patient, glorious governorate, the heroic al-Wahdah Brigades—infantry, artillery, and armor—managed to destroy the 30th Brigade, which was recently moved from al-Maharrah Governorate to besiege and attack the al-'Amaliqah forces. Thus, this brigade met the dark destiny to which it was pushed by the gang of rebellion and secession. All of its commanders, officers, and soldiers surrendered to the forces of legitimacy and the Constitution, the protectors of democracy. All weapons, equipment, and vehicles, which are kept by the elements of that rebelling gang for plotting in the Abyan Governorate, were captured.

Our Armed Forces in the southwestern axis of the 3d Infantry Brigade and units from the Khalid Camp and the Reserve Brigade continued to carry out their fixed missions and achieve successive victories while continuing their advance toward the al-'Anad Camp and the capital of Lahij Governorate.

While these decisive battles are positively progressing, the Air Force within our valiant Armed Forces assumed a heroic, unique, and brave commando role in confronting the attackers' aircraft and completing the missions and targets they had been assigned on all battlefronts with high efficiency. They carried out more than 20 air sorties, fulfilling their objectives with complete success.

The following are among the most important military tasks they successfully carried out: Destroying the runways and facilities of the al-'Anad airport, destroying and sinking a missile gunboat which tried to shell our armed forces in Abyan Governorate, destroying large quantities of the military hardware of the 30th Infantry Brigade while it was advancing to (Lubyan) Directorate in Abyan Governorate. They also succeeded in hitting and destroying the Aden airport runway so the rebel secessionist clique will not be able to use it to pursue the aggression against our Armed Forces, or to escape outside the country.

While the comprehensive bloody war that was arranged by the rebel and secessionist forces is nearing its end, their rancor excacerbates and their bloody and terrorist actions intensify. The secessionist gang fired missiles on populated areas in al-Rahibah, Ta'izz Governorate, and al-Mukha, targetting the power plant, and against Al-Hudaydah, targetting the power plant in the Ra's Kabir area. Many defenseless citizens were martyred, although these missiles failed to destroy the vital installations they had as targets. The rancorous will swallow their rancor.

Within the unique and brave operations that the forces of unity and legitimacy have carried out, our air defense forces confronted with great ability the enemy aircraft on all fronts, downing one aircraft over Abyan, another over Ka'kaba, and a third over Ta'izz Governorate.

The military source concluded his statement by saying: There is no need today to rebutt the media falsehoods and lies by the defeatist secessionist forces of the YSP command because their lies speak for themselves and are refuted by the stable security state of affairs in all cities, where the rancorous have tried to ignite the sedition, to destroy, and harm their citizens.

The source praised the confidence all the sons of the Yemeni people have demonstrated toward the victories their Armed Forces and Public Security Forces are scoring, their pride in them, and their waiting for the important victory over all the forces of oppression, apostasy, and secession so that the new history of our people and country will put an end to the last page of their rancorous and desperate conspiracy in spite of the military hardare and lethal weapons the rancorous and

conspirators had prepared and which they purchased with money that was to be used to feed the people and at the expense of the people's development aspitations for progress and construction. They now are receiving the just punishment. History has discarded them, away from our people's lives, so they may not sully their unionist and democractic march and so that they may not tarnish the ray of hope in all the hearts of the Yemenis. Fighting is prescribed for you, and you dislike it. But it is possible that you dislike a thing which is good for you. [Koranic verse]

Main Military Airfield Captured

NC0805131194 Paris AFP in English 1256 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, May 8 (AFP)—Troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on Sunday captured the south's main military airport, 50 kilometres from the port city of Aden, Western diplomatic sources said.

The sources in the region said Al-'Anad was the only military airport around the southern stronghold of Aden, although the south has a second base in the Hadhramaut, 700 kilometres (420 miles) to the east.

The northern forces have the port city trapped in a "pincer movement," one diplomat said.

Aden Denies Fall of Air Base

EA0905104094 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] An official spokesman of the Defense Ministry in Aden has denied foreign media reports today that fierce battles were fought about 20 km north of Aden. In a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA", the spokesman went on to say that the foreign media reports on the fall of al-Anad Air Base to the secessionist forces of the al-Ahmar family are totally untrue. He said the air base in the al-Anad area is discharging its normal national functions in providing support to the forces of unity and democracy, which are striking successive blows against the secessionist al-Ahmar forces.

He stressed that Lahij Governorate is entirely under the control of the forces of unity and democracy, and that al-Anad Air Base is situated in that governorate. Concluding his statement, the Defense Ministry's official spokesman hailed the heroic and principled role of the forces of democracy and unity in pursuing the forces of treason and secession in the depths of [word indistinct].

Aden Denies North's Gains

EA0805165694 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 May 94

[Excerpt] A responsible source has denied foreign media reports, which quote the ASSOCIATED PRESS, that the forces of the oppressive gang of al-Ahmar have reached the al-Alam area, 30 km from the outskirts of Aden. The source said these claims were totally untrue. They were the product of the delusory imaginings of the military gang of the [word indistinct] al-Ahmar gang, who had succeeded in feeding these false reports to obfuscate the great defeats inflicted on their forces in Abyan, Qa'tabah, Radfan, and Kirsh. [passage omitted]

Aden 'Expected To Fall Within Hours'

NC0805154694 Paris AFP in English 1529 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] SANAA, May 8 (AFP) - The battle for Aden reached the gates of the southern stronghold on Sunday [8 May] and the city was expected to fall under northern control within hours, the official Yemeni news agency SABA" said.

"Violent clashes are now taking place at the gates of the city between government forces and rebel troops," said SABA", which is run by the northern administration loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

"Aden is expected to fall within hours," under a barrage of tankfire and artillery, it said, reporting fires had broken out around the city.

SABA" said a southern brigade had been destroyed in Abyan province near Aden and two of the south's warplanes shot down as the north seized control of al-Dhalih, a town 60 kilometrers (25 miles) north of the port city.

Despite the northern reports of military success, the situation in Aden itself was still calm, according to an AFP correspondent in the city of more than 500,000 residents.

Diplomats in the region, meanwhile, said the north had trapped Aden in a "pincer movement" and captured the south's main air base.

But the south said it repelled northern forces in al-Kawt, 30 kilometres (18 miles) to the east of Aden and that Salih's troops were in retreat toward the mountains.

Other northern elements had been ambushed and wiped out in Radfan, to the north, said military spokesmen in Aden, the power base of Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the president's bitter rival.

Aden Claims North Brigade Surrenders

EA0805130094 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Forces loyal to unity and national alignment succeeded yesterday morning in storming the camp of the 2d Armored Brigade at (al-Rahah), in the governorate of Lahij, following repeated loudspeaker appeals from members of the Armed Forces. They warned their brothers in the camp of the consequences of being dragged into this war, which the adventurers want to use to defend their flimsy, collapsing rule. Hundreds of 2d Armored Brigade soldiers surrendered, and announced they were joining the ranks of the people defending unity and democracy. The camp was seized after a small

remnant of fighters fled. These persons had pledged themselves to evil, and to defending the regime of the military family ruling in Sanaa.

During the attack on the camp, appeals were made to the fighters and citizens to preserve the lives of their brothers, and to preserve the those possessions of the 2d Brigade which were left in the camp after its members had fled. All these possessions are now with the Yemeni Armed Forces.

After entering and touring the camp, the fighters and citizens were surprised by the fortified defenses set up by the brigade, in accordance with instructions from the military family ruling in Sanaa, which displayed the absolutely divisive mentality with which it views Yemeni unity. The family was under the illusion that the brigade and its fighters were in a hostile zone. This exposes the premeditated intentions for war this tyrannical gang held. Had it not been hostile intentions which motivated them, simple defenses would have been sufficient in a permanent military zone—like the ones set up by units transferred from Aden to Sanaa.

Immediate instructions were issued by the Defense Ministry following the storming of the camp, which called on the soldiers and citizens to preserve the lives of their fighting brothers, and to reassure those who had fled to the mountains that they were in their homeland and among their brothers. All military efforts should be directed against the hearts of the al-Ahmar gang and its clique.

Sanaa Forces Reportedly Routed

EA0805183594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] A responsible source has denied foreign media reports, which quote the ASSOCIATED PRESS, that the forces of the oppressive gang of al-Ahmar have reached the al-Alam area, 30 km from the outskirts of Aden. The source said these claims were totally untrue. They were the product of the delusory imaginings of the military gang of the [word indistinct] al-Ahmar gang, who had succeeded in feeding these false reports to obfuscate the great defeats inflicted on their forces in Abyan, Qa'tabah, Radfan, and Kirsh. The source said that the remnants of the Amaliqah forces, which had claimed to have been on the outskirts of Aden, are now scattered on the al-Arqub after our heroic armed forces destroyed their main strongholds in Zinjibar and Ja'ar. At dawn today our forces succeeded in destroying the camp of the Amaliqah at Zinjibar completely, burning all stores, supplies, and ammunition. They destroyed a major portion of the Amaliqah vehicles and then pursued the remnants of the force, which fled in the direction of al-Arqub.

The forces of the 30th Brigade, now deployed in their new positions along the Lawdar-Mukayras axis, were able to join up with the 20th Brigade in Mukayras this morning.

As for the military situation in Lahij, the 2d Armored Brigade, which had been loyal to the bloody and oppressive al-Ahmar gang, was successfully destroyed. The camp at Lahij was captured. Many officers and other ranks were taken prisoner, and some tanks and military vehicles were captured. Most of them had been destroyed during the fighting in al-Rahah in Radfan over the past few days. The defeat of the 2d Armored Brigade made it possible to open the road between al-Dali and Aden, and for our armed forces stationed at Radfan and al-Anad to join up with the Abbud Brigade at al-Dali. The latter was provided with supplies after it firmly withstood, with exceptional heroism, an attack mounted on it by three brigades from the al-Hamzah Camp, central security forces, and Republican Guards from the Qa'tabah-ibb axis, in the heroic town of al-Dali. The inhabitants of al-Dali had been subjected to a mindless and indiscriminate artillery bombardment which lasted an hour a day over three successive days.

The ground battles resulted in the destruction of tens of tanks belonging to the security three force—loyal to the bloody al- Ahmar gang—which attacked the town of al-Dali, but their tanks and military vehicles were overcome and are lying on the battlefield. The steadfast forces of the Abbud Brigade were able to capture the positions of the attacking forces in the [word indistinct] area of the town of Qa'tabah. The battles on the al- Dali and Radfan fronts resulted in the failure of an attack mounted by the 3d Brigade, from their positions in the town of Taiizz, toward Kirsh. The attacking tank squadron was destroyed, and many officers and other ranks were captured with their arms and equipment by the (Dabuzah) Brigade, which is deployed at Kirsh.

Sanaa Forces Said in Retreat

EA0805191794 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The forces of unity, democracy and national concord have destroyed large units of the Amaliqah [northern forces], along with their stores, in al-Hawsh and Zinjibar, as well as the strongholds of the Amaliqah in many parts of Abyan Governorate. They have succeeded in wiping out many of the Amaliqah advance units.

In a statement for the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA", a military source said that our heroic armed forces had succeeded in destroying the strongholds of the Amaliqah and overrunning their forward positions east of Zinjibar with helicopters and artillery, which participated in a concerted attack against the fortifications and stores of the Amaliqah, completely destroying them. The source said the forces of the 30th Brigade and the Unity Brigade had occupied the positions of advance units in Lawdar, Mudiyah and Shuqrah, where the attacking Amaliqah found themselves under sustained attack from the forces of the 30th Brigade, the Unity Brigade, and the Navy. The forces of national alignment were able to

penerate the defenses of the Amaliqah and cut their communications, leaving them without central direction.

Meanwhile, other information indicates that the Amaliqah tried to retreat at Zinjibar, Lawdar, and Mudiyah with [word indistinct] the resident civilian population [words indistinct] children caused by this invasion by the Amaliqah of peaceful homes [words indistinct] the attacks of the patriotic forces.

Military clashes and confrontations continue up to this moment in various parts of Zinjibar, Lawdar, Mudiyah, and anywhere the remnants of the defeated Amaliqah forces remain. In the meantime, the masses of our struggling peoples are linking up with soldiers in the Radfan area and with our valiant fighters and forces from the al-Dali front, after our forces succeeded in destroying the 8th Armored Brigade in Radfan, capturing its camp at al-Rahah and pursuing its forces, which are scattering in all directions.

Sanaa Official Outlines Military Situation

JN0805210894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 May 94

[Statement by "official spokesman" at the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff Command; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Supported by God the almighty, and our dignified Yemeni people's cohesion with their leadership and Armed Forces, and with the heroism of the brave and faithful men in the Armed and Security Forces, the daily and decisive successes of the free popular will are continuing to defend unity and democracy and safeguard the Republic of Yemen by confronting the forces of apostasy and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party. Fierce battles are going on in the governorates of Lahij and Aden, close to the economic capital. At the same time, heroic resistance is taking place against the aggression on land, by sea, and in the air in the Abyan Governorate, where the Armed Forces secured absolute control the day before yesterday.

In the Aden Governorate, the al-'Amaliqah Brigade and the 2d Armored Brigade, along with the 2d al-Sa'iqah Brigade and the 56th Brigade, are continuing their advance and confronting the remnants of the forces of the secessionist, rebellious gangs entrenched in the east and north of the governorate, engaging them capably and bravely, positively absorbing all attacks and wearing out the aggression forces.

The 2d Armored Brigade also managed to storm the defenses of the first and second lines of the forces deployed in the al-Dali' District, held by the forces of apostasy and secession, and seized large quantities of their weapons and military equipment, which were [word indistinct] by the secessionist forces that held sway in the Yemeni Socialist Party in secret depots and hideouts in this district to guard against their implementing their aggressive goals and their special designs. A large number of the forces that were positioned in that district joined the forces of Yemeni unity and constitutional legitimacy. A substantial amount of the ammunition and combat equipment was also destroyed. The land-based anti- aircraft guns managed to down an aircraft of the secessionist gang in the al-Dali' district this morning.

In the meantime, the Air Force of Yemeni unity and constitutional legitimacy continues its attacks on the dens of apostasy and secession, completing its combat missions and [word instinct] the secessionist gang with complete collapse. Our aircraft returned safely to base, having accomplished their set missions. The fighters of the units stationed in the southern sector succeeded in storming the defenses of the first line of the [name indistinct] Brigade, that was misguided by the mutinous secessionist gang, inflicting on it heavy losses. The heroes of the brigades of al- Wahdah, the infantry, the artillery, and the armory executed the missions to which they had been entrusted with efficiency and high combat ability in the [name indistinct] district.

The source described as baseless the reports propagated by the false separatist media and certain radio stations that Sanaa was the target of air raids this morning, adding that the objective of the statements and reports of the separatist rebellious gang on this and other nonexistent battles waged by units that were destroyed, units that surrendered, and units that joined the legitimacy and announced their loyalty to this legitimacy is to obscure the facts. These units are today receiving instructions from the higher political and military leadership represented by brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

All the lies of the forces of apostasy and secession are aimed at deluding external public opinion into believing that they still exist in order to repeat their falsehood and lies, which are rejected by the facts on the ground and by the victories [words indistinct] the epic of great victory for unity, democracy, and entrenching constitutional legitimacy. There is also the victory of wellbeing and justice in the battle of life in which every citizen is participating with his heart, mind, and solidarity. For the officers and noncommissioned officers, this battle is greater than all else because it is the battle of the sacred defense of life, principles, doctrine, and the gains of homeland and people. In this battle, they are confronting all challenges of conspiracy, death, and fragmentation that the despotic elements of apostasy are [word indistinct] until they were defeated, or will be defeated soon.

What affirms their frustration and failure is the fact that—thanks to God's care—all the [name of missiles indistinct] and Scud missiles, which these criminal forces fired last Thursday [5 May] on [words indistinct]

vital and strategic facilities, failed (?to reach their targets) or to inflict any losses in the areas in which they fell. Some of them were even damaged in the air.

We reiterate the appeal to the brother officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers in the military units under the control of the separatist clique to wake up and to free themselves from the dictatorship of the dominating elements in the YSP [Yemeni Socialist Party] to save their lives, because they will not be above the law or stronger than the anger of the people against their enemies [words indistinct] the enemies of unity, freedom, and democracy, because our valiant Armed Forces, which offered severe sacrifices, are determined to destroy all dens of treason and separatists one after another. Success comes from God.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If you will aid the cause of God, he will aid you and plant your feet firmly.

Al-'Attas Discusses Crisis With Foreign Leaders

Speaks With Arab League Head

EA0605200294 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Mr. Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister, yesterday had a telephone call with Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Arab League secretary general. During this call they reviewed the development of the situation in the Yemeni arena. The prime minister praised the Arab League's efforts to overcome the grave developments as a result of the military outbreak of the situation, which began with the attack on the 5th Brigade in Harf Sufyan, the 3d Brigade in 'Imran, Ba Suhayb Brigade in Dhamar, and later by launching the all-out war against our Yemeni people by the bloody secessionist al al-Ahmar dynasty with a view to undermining the covention document.

Talks With Jordanian Counterpart

EA0605205394 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, had a telephone call with Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the Jordanian prime minister. He informed al-Majali about the latest developments in the Yemen arena and the all-out war launched by the al-Ahmar dynasty against our Yemeni people.

For his part, al-Majali affirmed that Jordan is keen about stopping the bloodshed and indicated that Jordan will act with other Arab countries in this direction.

It was learned by SABA" news agency that Mr. Haydar Abu-Bakr al- 'Attas had a telephone call with the U.S. State Department, and this was followed by a meeting between our ambassador in Washington with the officials in the U.S. Department.

It was also learned by SABA" news agency that the prime minister is continuing his contacts with other Arab and friendly countries. SABA' news agency said that the prime minister has drawn the attention of the directions [as heard] with which he made the calls to the dangers of the war launched by the al-Ahmar dynasty, which had concentrated their strikes against the civil and vital installations which affect the Yemeni people's lives and confirmed its envy and insistence to undermine all achievements.

The prime minister praised the steadfastness of the soldiers and officers of our Armed Forces and all our Yemeni masses which are repelling the conspiracy of the al-Ahmar house. He also praised the stand of the officers and soldiers who refused the orders and instructions which were issued by the al-Ahmar house and returned to the tribes which oppose the war and al-Ahmar house's instructions.

The prime minister, Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, praised the stand of the government and the Defense Ministry to secure the rights of this [word indistinct] and expressed his pride of the heroic stands of the Yemeni tribes which reject the war and support the convention document.

Asks UN Chief for Intervention

JN0705181594 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Aden, 7 May (WAKH)—The southern leadership in Aden has asked the United Nations to intervene to stop the fighting in Yemen.

Radio Aden reported this evening that Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas last night telephoned UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali and informed him of the bloody incidents in Yemen. The radio said Dr. Butrus-Ghali stressed UN keenness to help Yemen to stop the fighting and overcome the crisis.

The radio pointed out that al-'Attas asked Yemen's permanent UN representative to hold consultations with the president and members of the Security Council to coordinate international efforts to support the efforts of the Arab League to end the war in Yemen.

YSP Calls For Cease-Fire in Hostilities

NC0605210394 Paris AFP in English 2058 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, May 6 (AFP)—The southern Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) called for a ceasefire on Friday to halt its two-day-old civil war against the northern forces of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Aden Radio said.

The radio, monitored by Gulf news agencies, said the YSP based in the southern port city of Aden "accepts a ceasefire in response to calls from Arab and foreign countries."

"This favourable response is dictated by the interests of the Yemeni people, whose lives, belongings, unity, armed forces and economic installations must be preserved," the radio said, quoting a YSP statement.

Sanaa Rejects Dispatch of Arab Forces

NC0605211594 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Sanaa has rejected the dispatch of Arab forces to stop the war in Yemen, saying that what is happening in Yemen is a domestic affair and could be decided internally, according to sources of the General People's Congress, which is led by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Salih dismissed the Yemeni oil minister and the Aden governor, both of whom belong to the Yemeni Socialist Party led by 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Our correspondent Tawfiq Jazulit reported a short time ago that south Yemeni fighter planes staged several raids tonight on Sanaa. Six Scud missiles fell on the city during the day while 2 northern planes raided Aden. The northerners have announced that they are preparing to launch an attack on Aden on several fronts.

Radio Reiterates Rejection

JN0805200994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1750 GMT 8 May 94

[Talk carried within the "Issues and Events" program]

[Text] Brothers and sisters: We say that what is taking place in our country is an internal matter and that it needs no mediation from any side because the forces of apostasy and secession have ignited an all-out war in our homeland. They, therefore, are considered rebels against the constitutional legitimacy around which the people are rallying and which they freely chose.

We want to explain here that we appreciate the interest and sympathy of brothers and friends. We also want to make it clear that there is no longer any excuse for mediation. Also, the forces of apostasy and secession are on the verge of surrender and they will be taken into account for their acts. This matter is known by everybody. The armed units that receive orders from al-Bid and his clique, which dominates the [Yemeni] Socialist Party, are collapsing one after other. Many of these units' officers and personnel have surrendered now that they have become aware of the objectives of those who misled them. The door is open before the other units to join the units that are defending unity and chasing those rebelling against constitutional legitimacy.

We want also to say that through their calls for mediation the leaders of apostasy and separation want another opportunity to continue their game of undermining Yemen's unity. This is rejected by the legitimate leadership, which was patient for a long time and tried to achieve reconciliation with the gang of apostasy, separation, and evil, but to no avail.

Since the gang of apostasy and separation has not desisted from its path and is not aware of the pains caused by its practices, the only way is to apply the law on the criminals who worked to drive a wedge among the people, ignite the fire of sedition, and launch a all-out war [words indistinct] units of our Armed Forces, which they deceived, to fight the units defending unity and constitutional legitimacy.

What, then, is the meaning of the talk about mediation? In the past, the gang of apostasy and secession resorted to maneuvering and procrastination in the face of mediation. It used to ridicule the mediators and the legitimate leadership in order to evade all agreements. Arab brothers and friends became aware of this fact and knew full well the practices and twisted methods of the gang of apostasy and secession, which is considered—in accordance with the Constitution, law, and reason—a rebellious clique. It even committed crimes of high treason. It ignored national constants, called for estrangement, and worked to destroy unity. It tampered with public funds, shook security, and undermined the stability of the whole Yemeni people.

After long patience and indulgence, can we ignore all this and accept any mediation just so that the gang of apostasy can regain its breath and prepare to replace the scenario of this war, which it ignited, with a scenario of another war?

Our country—leadership and people—are awaiting the natural end of the gang of apostasy and secession that aimed at spreading bloodshed throughout the homeland and which is still dreaming of spreading a civil war in the streets. [words indistinct] know that there is no civil [word indistinct] at all. What is taking place are military operations aimed at subjugating the party rebelling against constitutional legitimacy, the party that seeks (?separation) and bloodshed.

Salih Addresses House of Representatives on Crisis

JN0705183294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, has called on the separatist elements in the leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], who are rebelling against legitimacy, to immediately surrender to legitimacy to preserve the remainder of the Armed Forces personnel, who were misled by those separatist elements into a losing battle. The brother chairman regretted the victims of the ongoing fighting against the rebels in the YSP leadership. He said that the blood that was shed is Yemeni blood and dear to all of us.

Addressing the people's deputies at the House of Representatives this morning, the brother chairman said: Our Yemeni people, who offered thousands of martyrs to defend the republican system, will offer more sacrifices

to maintain unity. He said: Separation is impossible. We will not move an inch from unity, regardless of the price.

The brother chairman announced the rejection of any mediation effort or call aimed at bringing into our country any Arab or international forces. He said: What is taking place in Yemen is an internal affair and an issue that concerns the Yemenis. We are not two states or two regimes, but one state, one people, and one republican system. The ongoing fighting is taking place against Yemeni elements who fomented sedition in the society and rebelled against the constitutional legitimacy. They bear responsibility for their acts and mistakes. But, as for the unionists in the YSP, they are the object of our respect, pride, and love.

He added: Our unionist enterprise is to build a new Yemen on the basis of a democratic and multi-party political system, where the constitution and law are enforced. We want to build the state of law and order, social progress, and of genuine, comprehensive progress, away from flowery speeches, slogans, lies, and deception.

He indicated that our valiant Armed Forces are now scoring major successes and chasing the forces of rebellion and secession to force them to surrender to the people's will, legitimacy, and national consensus.

The brother chairman urged the House of Representatives, and through it the masses of our Yemeni people, to maintain public order, abide by the law, and prevent chaos. He said: We highly appreciate our great Yemeni people's endurance and patience, which has lasted for a period of approximately nine months since the beginning of the political crisis fabricated by the secessionists in the YSP leadership when al-Bid returned to Aden. Relaxation is imminent. The outcome will be favorable, God willing.

In his address to the House of Representatives, the brother president reviewed all the developments that have taken place in our country since the fabrication of the crisis on 19 August 1993. He also reviewed the role that the separatist elements in the YSP leadership under al-Bid had in leading the country to the current regrettable situation. He described the concessions that have been made to end the crisis, maintain unity, and spare the people and the homeland problems, troubles, and affliction.

The president said: However, the secessionist elements in the YSP continued to work to escalate the crisis and promote its repercussions in the military and information spheres. These elements brought the military situation to a head beginning with the Abyan events on the eve of the signing of the Pledge and Accord Agreement in Amman; through the Shabwah, (Harth Sufyan), and 'Imran events; and finally igniting the fire in Dhamar with the Ba Suhayb Brigade and against the Central Security men in Aden and the 2d Armored Brigade at al-Rahah.

The president said: We did not want matters to go this far, but the rebellious secessionist elements continued to be arrogant and intransigent, working to provoke sedition and bring conditions all over the homeland to the point of explosion.

The president alluded to the YSP secessionist elements' crimes of plundering public funds and of financial and administrative corruption, noting actions by Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun and a number of other secessionist elements from the YSP leadership who took $375 million from the al-Masilah oil revenues illegally and deposited them in private accounts of their own after having doubled the price of the construction of the al-Masilah oil pipeline in an illegal way and without consulting constitutional establishments.

The brother president reviewed the development of the crisis, alluding to the dialogues following the parliamentary election on constitutional amendments and the YSP demands to improve the drafting of some articles in the draft amendments concerning the form of the state presidency, the local government, and the third article of the constitution. However, [word indistinct] imposed new conditions represented by [word indistinct] draft that was agreed on. We accepted the political dialogue and the Pledge and Accord Document was completed. We accepted this in order to prevent the implementation of the plot to dismember the homeland, despite the fact that it contained 75 percent of the YSP demands. However, the YSP was not convinced. The secessionist elements continued to implement their scheme of returning the homeland to what it was before 22 May 1990. They continued to present impossible conditions and refused to accept any mediation efforts. We said: Let us begin with the two basic points in the Pledge and Accord Document; namely, arresting elements accused of sabotage and disturbing security, and withdrawing military units from the previous borders.

The president said: But they rejected this. Then we discovered that their demands were only a cover to circumvent the results of the parliamentary elections and implement the plot of secession. This was proven by the fact that elements accused of sabotage and explosions, whose names were placed on the list of of persons to be arrested, were in alliance with the YSP and were fighting among its ranks, paying them money and giving them arms to practice deception.

The explosions, the kidnapping of foreigners, and the banditry have been revealed to be the work of the intelligence forces of the YSP in order to terrify unionist elements in the party and force them to leave Sanaa in order to implement the secessionist plot for which al-Bid had been working. He continued to escalate the crisis after reaping the fruits of the crisis.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council added that after the elections, the YSP was offered many concessions to participate in assuming power, despite the fact that it came in third. He pointed out that the

YSP continued to practice media deception and kept harping on a state of law and order, at a time when large amounts of weapons were found at the headquarters of the Central Committee in Sanaa. The weapons included more than 400 pieces of equipment, 350 RPG's, and [word indistinct] missiles, and other weapons. This is the cultural scheme of the YSP.

The brother chairman added that what happened in 'Imran was part of a series of incidents meant to ignite the military situation in order to destroy the 1st Armored Brigade and then destroy the city of 'Imran and march on Sanaa to topple the regime of the state of unity and constitutional legitimacy. He pointed out that the martyrs and victims who fell in that regrettable fighting are the victims of the policy of the elements that have not learned their lesson since the inception of the YSP.

Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, earlier welcomed brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, commending his attendance of the House's session to brief the House on the facts since the inception of the crisis.

The House discussed the latest developments in the country. The discussions of the deputies of the people, including the deputies attending for the parliamentary bloc of the YSP, asserted that the members of the House represent the entire Yemeni people in accordance with the Constitution and the constitutional oath taken by the deputies at the first session of the elected House of Representatives.

The people's deputies, of various political and party persuasions, stressed adherence to constitutional legitimacy and Yemeni unity and national unity, at whatever cost. The deputies were also unanimous that they are against those who undermine the democratic approach and against those who seek separation.

The House of Representatives also stressed that the current war is not a civil war but a war between constitutional legitimacy and those who have abrogated it. The deputies' remarks also stressed that it is important for the security agencies to maintain public security and safeguard public and private funds and the safety of the citizens, regardless of their political persuasion.

Afterward, the House formed a committee from its members, including the bloc of the General People's Congress, the YSP bloc, the Yemeni Reform Grouping bloc and the bloc of the independents. The committee will present views to the House on the current developments in the country.

At the outset of the session, the House of Representatives reviewed the minutes of its previous session, to which the House statement issued on 5 May 1994 is attached. The two were approved unanimously. The House of Representatives will resume its sessions tomorrow morning, God willing.

Al-Bid Urges Support for Accord Document, Democracy

EA0705163494 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 7 May 94

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the deputy chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, has confirmed that the Yemeni people will successfully pass through this test of unity and democracy, just as they did the test of the September and October revolutions.

He explained during a news conference that the Yemeni people are strong because of the cause they support, and that no matter how much the secessionist al-Ahmar gang tries to fabricate issues, militarize the crisis, and derail the homeland, the political forces and national consensus will remain on the correct path which we all chose on 20 February.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid said: Man is Yemen's foundation. Hence, our strength lies with men and with those causes which men support. Random missile and cannon fire do not amount to any kind of strength, and they will not prevent the masses from raising their heads proudly and refusing to yield to the wishes and sicknesses of domineering gangs. We are stronger, our people are stronger—we shall not abandon the march on the path that we chose—the path of unity and democracy, the path of stability.

The brother deputy chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the YSP pointed out in the course of his speech that the party had sacrificed much on behalf of the people. It had confronted the evil gangs so that they would not plunge the country into conflict. He pointed out that these concessions to the evil gangs have now been exhausted, and that the YSP stands united with the people. He confirmed that the situation is getting better.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid pondered what might be happening in Sanaa and many other areas, pointing out that the northern gangs have cut off communications both inside and outside the country so that people cannot communicate.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid stated that our legitimacy is derived from the people, and that the legitimacy of the media, which is being imposed on the people, is transient. He said that this legitimacy will only last for a couple of days, and he doubted the ability of some people to impose it for thirty days.

He emphasized the importance of cohesion to the internal front and to the nationalist forces, and stressed commitment to the processes of unity, democracy, multipartyism, and nondiscrimination between the citizens, wherever they live in any governorate. Whoever supports the pledge and accord document, national cohesion, and peaceful, democratic struggle, is with us in any governorate. The deputy chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the YSP explained that

instructions have been given for opening a camp in Lahj Governorate for whoever wants to join the ranks of unity and democracy.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid denied reports being disseminated by the hostile media on the strike against the Dhamar electricity station. He pointed out that the Republican Guard in Dhamar carried out this act. He emphasized that the forces of unity and democracy did not and will not hit any vital targets, since these belong to the people. But the forces of unity and democracy will search for the gang and its palaces, hideouts, and nests.

YSP Central Committee Rejects State of Emergency

EA0705204094 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] The central committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] issued a statement on the exceptional joint meeting of the central committee of the YSP and the party's parliamentary bloc, held under the chairmanship of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the YSP.

The statement said that the meeting first heard the secretary general, who reviewed the current situation in the country and the state of belligerency ignited by al-Ahmar gang in all parts of Yemen after striking the 5th Brigade in Harf Sufyan, the 3d Brigade in 'Imran, and the attack on the Ba Suhayb Camp last Wednesday [4 May]. The statement affirmed that these attacks were carried out in accordance with the war decision taken by 'Ali Abdallah Salih in order to bury the democracy, and [he] announced in his speech the war decision, which put the country in an endless disaster after having maneuvered about the convention document. The war had been paved by the series of murders and massacres of the Armed Forces of the unity, and all this means that 'Ali Abdallah Salih and his gang had looked at the unity as laying down his influence on the land of his authority by using various pawns of power.

The statement said that the war carried out by al-Ahmar house usually interprets their rejection of the unity and their insistance on carrying out their separationist project. This gang miscalculated when it did not take into account that the unity had become a reality and that the unity has had its own defenders. The socialist party and all patriots and honorable people will defend the country and the unity, and continue its sacrifices to defend the homeland and its unity.

The statement warns that the shelling of the civil establishments and economic corporations and villages and the killing of innocent people is a desperate attempt to justify the war and its crimes. By declaring a state of emergency, 'Ali Abdallah Salih has slain democracy and rejected all Arab and international efforts to stop bloodshed. This has been expected from 'Ali Abdallah Salih, who rejected the national consensus and the document.

The statement added that the central committee declares its rejection of the state of emergency and the use of the House of Deputies to cover up the war. The central committee at the same time condemns the declaration of the war by 'Ali Abdallah Salih, and appeals to all the masses and the Armed Forces to repel this conspiracy. It praises the heroship of the Armed Forces of the unity and the masses for their resistance of the aggression.

The central committee welcomed the Arab and the international calls to stop the war and continue the political and serious dialogue.

Defense Minister Orders General Mobilization

EA0705202994 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Defense Minister Haytham Qasim Tahir has issued a ministerial order calling for the general mobilization of human and material reserves in all governorates. The first article of the order provides for the declaration of a general mobilization of human and material reserves in all governorates. The third article of the order (?commits) the general administration to mobilize its reserves and branches in the governorates to implement the mobilization tasks for which they are responsible, and to organize callups and scrutinize specializations in accordance with unit needs for human and material resources with effect from 6 May.

The sixth article of this order stipulates that all military personnel must proceed to their military units within a period of 24 hours. The seventh article of the order commits the general administration to mobilize its reserves, and through its branches in the governorates to coordinate with large organizations, the public sector, and government organizations to ensure the execution of the tasks stipulated in this order.

The eighth article of the order stipulates that the order will become operative with effect from its date of issuance, and that it shall be published in the official gazette.

General Mobilization Under Way

EA0905110094 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2040 GMT 8 May 94

[Excerpts] Military communique issued by the Defense Ministry: For the 12th day running, the total destructive war declared by General 'Ali Abdallah Salih, the Sanaa military gang leader, against our people and heroic Armed Forces, has continued. [passage omitted]

Today witnessed [words indistinct] mobilization with thousands of our people's sons, people from public and private institutions, responding to the decree of Defense Minister Haytham Qasim Tahir, who has ordered a general mobilization for the protection of life and property. Thousands of citizens went to the camps in

response to the call to do their national duty of protecting our people, their property, and land [words indistinct] being waged by the oppressive al-Ahmar gang. [passage omitted]

Al-Bid Discusses Conflict With Arab Leaders

EA0805132094 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], received two telephone calls yesterday afternoon from his brothers, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al Nuhayyan, the president of the United Arab Emirates. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid expressed their great concern over the situation in Yemen and the continued fighting there. They stressed their strongest determination to continue making all possible efforts to stop the fighting between the sons of the united Yemen.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid reiterated his thanks and appreciation for the efforts of both presidents, Husni Muharak and Shaykh Zayid. Those efforts were aimed at stopping the bloodshed in Yemen, which began after the launch of the doomed war by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his secessionist and adventuristic gang after he lost patience with the widespread agreement and overall national consensus regarding the pledge and accord document. The brother deputy chairman of the Presidential Council briefed his two brothers, Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Zayid Bin-Sultan, about developments in the military situation along all the axes of the fighting.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid has also spoken on the telephone with his brother, His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. He briefed him on the situation in Yemen which resulted from the ill-fated war sparked off by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid expressed great appreciation for the role played by Jordan in attempting to stop the deterioration of the situation in Yemen. He confirmed his earnestness in responding to all fraternal and friendly efforts to return to political dialogue, and to submit to the true and serious implementation of the pledge and accord document.

YSP's al-Dali Calls For End to Fighting

NC0805073594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 8 May 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, YSP Political Bureau member and special envoy of Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd; place and date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" Program—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Why have these bloody incidents broken out in Yemen in this way and at this particular time? Even though everyone is talking about Yemeni unity and maintaining it, why do we see the opposite?

[Al-Dali] Regrettably we would not have liked to talk about such incidents, such bloody, painful, and tragic incidents. But as you have observed, the incidents began some time ago with the liquidation of the southern brigades stationed in the northern governorates. As the YSP [Yemeni Socialist Party] did not take any military stand on these liquidations, influential elements in Sanaa seem to have taken advantage of this situation and began to liquidate the Ba-Suhayb Brigade. This, in turn, led to the flare up of the military situation. The military mentality, which thinks there is a military solution for Yemeni problems, is the cause of this situation.

[Abu-al-Majd] You had some demands about implementing the Pledge and Accord Document and emphasized the first article of that document, which concerns security. Can we have a further explanation?

[Al-Dali] Yes, we had demands that were agreed on by all those who signed the document, including the brothers in the General People's Congress. We signed an agreement that the assassins of the YSP leaders and those who wreaked havoc on the country and brushed the citizens' and Yemen's security aside must be arrested. We said this was the first step to restoring confidence and that they must arrest the assassins first to enable us to stay in Sanaa and prepare for the committees' meeting. But this did not happen and the agreement's first article has not been implemented.

[Abu-al-Majd] And this is why the war began?

[Al-Dali] They wanted to evade the implementation of the document and cause the military situation to flare up. They never liked the document and were not ready to implement it. They aggravated the military situation to avoid public pressure on them to implement the document.

[Abu-al-Majd] How can this situation be reversed now that the Arab League Council has held a session in Cairo and the secretary general was entrusted with consulting Yemeni leaders to stem this bloodshed? In your view, what measures are required to stop this bloodshed?

[Al-Dali] First, halt the fighting, then disengage the forces, and then give the brothers—the Arab League, the Arab brothers led by Egypt—an opportunity to try for a political solution to this stormy crisis.

[Abu-al-Majd] Before this explosion of the situation, there were mediatory efforts by Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, and you both signed the Pledge and Accord Document in Amman. These mediations did not succeed; why? Is it because of you or because of others?

[Al-Dali] In fact, we did adhere to the document and still want to implement it. We have said that the situation has to be normalized and confidence restored.

[Abu-al-Majd] Will you continue to pursue unity?

[Al-Dali] Certainly, certainly. Unity would be ours and the Yemeni people's, and we will carry on with it.

[Abu-al-Majd] Despite all that has happened?

[Al-Dali] Despite everything. But we will rectify our situation. It has to be corrected.

[Abu-al-Majd] How?

[Al-Dali] This is up to the dialogue.

[Abu-al-Majd] How can there be a dialogue while guns still heard?

[Al-Dali] Fighting has to stop first; the bloodshed must be stemmed. And then we should return to the negotiating table and begin to implement the document. These are our demands as a communist party.

[Abu-al-Majd] Is the YSP willing to stop the bloodshed or will it fight unilaterally?

[Al-Dali] We are willing. But if we halt the fighting while the other party insists on fighting, will we not surrender ourselves for a massacre?

[Abu-al-Majd] Are you willing to accept...

[Al-Dali, interrupting] Yes in principle.

[Abu-al-Majd] But are you willing to accept Arab buffer forces, if such a proposal is resubmitted, discussed, and accepted by the Arab league?

[Al-Dali] If necessary. If it is necessary and there is no other way to halt the fighting, we have no objections at all.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do you not refuse to receive an Arab delegation carrying these proposals?

[Al-Dali] Not at all. We have no objection if all other means are exhausted.

[Abu-al-Majd] Finally, what is the true and effective way out of this crisis to save the Yemeni people and halt the bloodshed?

[Al-Dali] We believe we are suffering a caesarean section with this new situation in Yemen. When we demand a halt to the fighting, we mean to alleviate the pains and afflictions of this caesarean section. That is all I can say. We insist on halting the fighting, not because of a sense of defeat nor to avert the outcome, but to spare the blood of the Yemeni youths who are being killed here and there.

Al-'Attas Welcomes Arab League Resolution on Situation

EA0805153694 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas today welcomed the resolution adopted by the council of the Arab League during its extraordinary session in Cairo on 7 May on the Yemen situation. The brother prime minister expressed (?total) readiness to cooperate with the efforts being made by the Arab League.

Al-Bid Letters Delivered to Arab Leaders

EA0805192794 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] In a statement on Voice of the Arabs Radio today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Aziz al-Dali, member of the politburo of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, called for the need to stop the fighting first and then to separate the combatants. He stressed to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that he was convinced of the importance of giving the Arab League and the Arab brothers latitude for finding a solution to the Yemeni crisis. It is worth mentioning that Brother Dr. al-Dali has delivered a number of letters from Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the deputy chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, to his brother leaders of fraternal Arab states.

'Bloody Gang' Carries Out Air Attacks on Aden

EA0805202694 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Aden branch of the Ministry of Interior and Security has said in a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA", that life in the economic and commercial capital, Aden, is proceeding normally, in spite of a few desperate attempts to subject the city to air bombardment from time to time—in order to attack certain vital economic installations and civil institutions—which have been unleashed by aircraft belonging to the bloody gang. The source stressed that the Aden branch of the ministry had taken all necessary measures and precautions to assure the freedom and safety of the citizens, and to ensure their security and livelihoods. These include civil defense measures and the securing of sources of water and supplies.

The source called on all the citizens to adhere to security and stability, and to persevere with their normal daily activities. The source said that public and private supplies and consumer installations would continue to render services. Such installations include restaurants, gas stations, butane gas depots, and the like.

The source went on to say that the Aden branch of the Ministry of Cooperatives, the municipality, and other relevant quarters would apply stern measures against anyone attempting to incite citizens, hoard foodstuffs or consumer goods, or stir up disputes concerning supplies. Such measures would include the withdrawal of trading licenses from business concerns, bakeries, or restaurants which closed their doors to the needs of the citizens to prevent them from having access to their products.

Concluding the statement, the source called on all citizens to cooperate with the police and to report any phenomena liable to undermine the stability of their security or livelihood.

Sanaa Paper Reports 12,000 Casualties in Fighting

JN0905055094 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Rival Yemeni armies battled for a sixth day today in a bloody confrontation shredding the volatile state's three-year-old unity. A Yemeni military spokesman in Sanaa has said that fierce fighting was under way in the southern provinces of Aden and Lahij. The spokesman said that the four brigades of the northern army were advancing on Aden and predicted the city would fall today. But in a radio broadcast, the south denied that northern forces had reached the outskirts of Aden where a general mobilization had been ordered to defend the city.

Meanwhile, the English language YEMEN TIMES, published in Sanaa, reported that 12,000 people had been already killed or wounded in the fighting, but it gave no source.

On the other hand, Western embassies in Sanaa said that they were planning further evacuations today. About 230 British and Commonwealth nationals were expected to leave. The United States, Germany, Italy, and French Embassies had similar plans, but gave no numbers.

U.S. Planes Evacuate 360 Foreigners to Saudi Arabia

NC0805051794 Paris AFP in English 2245 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Riyadh, May 7 (AFP)—Two U.S. planes evacuated 360 foreign nationals, mostly Americans, from Sanaa and flew them out of Yemen's civil war to safety in Saudi Arabia on Saturday, diplomatic sources said.

U.S. Embassy staff in the Saudi capital greeted the evacuees, also including British, German, Dutch and Egyptian nationals, at Riyadh airport, the sources said.

The United States said Friday it would evacuate non-essential diplomatic personnel from Yemen and advised other U.S. nationals to leave the country because of the fighting between northern and southern forces.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Christine Shelly said the U.S. had issued a travel warning for American citizens and was making arrangements for those in Yemen to leave.

Officials expect as many as 1,000 of the estimated 5,150 U.S. nationals in Yemen to leave soon, she added.

French Officer on Evacuations

LD0805221494 Paris Radio France International in French 2100 GMT 8 May 94

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The civil war in Yemen: According to the North Yemenis, Aden—the southern economic capital—is about to fall into their hands. They claim that there is fierce fighting around the gates of the town; in any case Sanaa's military supremacy has been confirmed today by French military sources based in Djibouti. They said that the situation was turning to the advantage of the northern forces. A general mobilization was decreed in Aden today.

There have been more evacuations of foreigners today, both in the north and south. There were three simultaneous operations. [passage omitted]

Pierre-Xavier (Colinet), the commander of the Jules Verne, was interviewed by our colleagues from France Inter:

[Begin (Colinet) recording] At the moment I am a few kilometers south of Aden. I have just picked up nationals belonging to a number of countries. There are 288 people—men, women, and children—who were picked by the Edic, a small tank landing craft which is very suitable for this kind of operation. They were picked up in the port of Aden. This was overseen by the consul. I am taking them on to the Jules Verne, which is a large ship, to give them food and beds, and I expect to take them to Djibouti.

At the same time as the Edic and its crew, there was a squad of naval commandos on board, accompanied by some other commandos [sentence as heard].

According to the people on the quay, there are no visible traces of fighting. But we did see a certain amount of shooting in the distance, especially from the area of the airport, which is to the east of the place where the people are embarking. [end recording]

[Announcer] Let me add that Pierre-Xavier (Colinet), the commander of the Jules Verne, said that another round trip by the ship is planned for tomorrow: There are still 30 French people to be evacuated from Aden.

In the east, in al-Mukalla, 80 foreigners were being evacuated by French ships today. The UN World Food Program has sent a plane to North Yemen, to Sanaa to repatriate its staff.

Paper Says Al-Bid Told Jordan's Husayn 'Ready for Dialogue'

JN0905102694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 May 94, p 1

[Text] Yemeni Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid on Sunday contacted His Majesty King Husayn saying he was ready for a political dialogue with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Aden Radio said in a report monitored

by the British Broadcasting Corporation. There was no Jordanian confirmation of the report.

King Husayn brought President Salih and Vice-President al-Bid, as well as other Yemeni political leaders together in Amman in February to sign a reconciliation and reform agreement. However, the accord was not implemented and the king said last month that Jordan was leaving a joint military commission entrusted with separating the northern and southern army units.

Ministry Warns Against Price Increases

JN0805044294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The Ministry of Supply and Trade warns all wholesale and retail dealers in the Republic of Yemen about the need to comply fully with the prices for all commodities that prevailed before the emergency was declared in the country. Anyone breaching this warning will be find, have his trade registration confiscated, and his shop closed. He will also be subject to direct imprisonment.

The ministry will launch a supply monitoring campaign to control commodity prices. A team from the Ministry of Supply and Trade, the Interior Ministry, and the capital's municipality will take part in the campaign. The ministry's Aden branch and the supply offices in the republic's governorates should also form committees from the offices, the ministry's monitors, and the governorate's security operations for this purpose.

We hope everyone will comply and cooperate. It is God who grants success.

U.S., Saudi Arabia, Kuwait Seen Destabilizing Yemen

JN0805121094 Baghdad INA in English 0828 GMT 8 May 94

[Excerpts] Baghdad, May 8, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper of Baghdad today said that no one imagined that affairs in Yemen would turn into such military confrontations as if they were between enemies and not brothers from one country. [passage omitted]

The English language newspaper 'THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER' editorially commented on the military battles raging in Yemen and said the crisis there is a result of foreign and internal factors.

The paper said the United States and Saudia [Saudi Arabia] as well as the Kuwaiti regime have worked covertly and in the open to destabilize the security and political situation in Yemen. Although the three parties are united in their opposition to any Arab gathering that could become a nucleus for a pan-Arab unity, each party has its own motives in opposing any Arab unity.

The United States along with the world Zionism are against the unity of the Arab nation so that the Arabs remain weak and suffer from their international divisions and differences.

The Iraqi paper further said that Israel in occupied Palestine will remain having the upper hand over the Arabs.

The U.S. showed indifference to the Yemen unity at the beginning because it felt that the Yemen unity would serve its global policy of winning footholds against the former USSR since south Yemen used to be an ally of the latter.

But since the collapse of the former USSR and the discovery of oil in the southern part of Yemen, the U.S. policy towards Yemen has shifted to its previous approach.

The paper added that the U.S. touches in the current Yemen crisis are indicated in the suspicious roles played by the U.S. ambassador to Yemen and other U.S. officials who are playing an agitating role in the Yemen crisis.

The U.S. influence on Yemen affairs has increased with the increasing number of U.S. oil companies digging for oil. Currently there are about 26 U.S. companies having oil contracts with Yemen.

The official invitations being extended to a number of Yemeni officials, journalists, and politicians is another tactic used by the U.S. Administration and its agencies to win political and economic influence in Yemen.

It added that the Saudis, for their part, are playing the same suspicious role played by the U.S. Administration in that since the unification of the two parts of Yemen, the Saudis increased their support to feudalism and tribalism in Yemen to destabilize the security and political situation in that Arab country.

Since then Saudi Arabia has expelled thousands of Yemeni expatriates and made extra territorial claims against Yemen.

This Saudi stance is in line with their government's customary policy of opposing any Arab economic or political unity.

The paper pointed out that the Kuwaitis for their part played an agitating role trying to castigate the Yemeni leadership for its support for Iraq during the U.S.-led aggression on the country.

So what is going on in Yemen nowadays is a result of a regional and international conspiracy to destroy the fragile Yemen unity and once again bring about its fragmentation.

If this is allowed to happen, it would be in the interest of the enemies of the Arab nation and very deterimental to Arab interests.

Yemeni Official Notes 'Conspiracy' Against Country

JN0805100494 Baghdad INA in English 0845 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, May 8, INA—Deputy head of the Information Department at the Popular General Conference Party in Yemen 'Abd-al-Karim al-Khamisi has emphasised that what is happening in Yemen now is not but a rebellion against legitimacy and democracy and violation of the national invariables on whose foundations the yemen unity was founded.

In an interview to AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad during his stay in Baghdad he said the political crisis in Yemen was a perilous action but not of the volume leading to a bloody military confrontation. He made it clear that what the media hostile to Yemen unity were mentioning in that what was going on in Yemen as fighting between the north and the south or conflict between the conference and the Socialist parties was groundless.

What is true, the Yemeni political official said, is that confirmed by the tangible reality affirming that the conflict is now beteen the unionists and their enemies and between legitimacy and illegitimacy. The proof is that all the national forces believing in the issue of unity and democracy of various political affiliations throughout Yemen are now standing abreast to encounter the rebellion in defense of the people's will that emerged in the elections of April 27, 1993 and clearly appeared on May 22, 1990, the day when the unity was declared.

He has added that one of the more significant of the constants on which the unity has been built is democracy, political plurality and peaceful exchange of power.

On the strength of these invariables the Yemeni people have gone to ballot boxes to choose the pursuit it accepts. And prior to the day of balloting all the political parties and organisations publicly announced that they would abide by outcomes of the elections, Mr al-Khamisi added.

He elaborated that following a short period there emerged on the surface indicators denoting that some of those who abided by the nation arbitration were not sincere in their commitment. And hence the crisis has begun and which in the beginning was putting on the mask of modernisation and reform. But this mask has fallen down in Amman after the conclusion of the document of pledge and agreement and then the world realised who was sincere and who was hesitant. The Yemeni official maintained that the secessionist intentions were disclosed and the political and military events speeded up till they have reached the current painful military confrontation. Mr 'Abd-al Karim al-Khamisi has further pointed out that those who backed up the tyrannous conspiracy on Iraq were the same today standing behind the militay mutiny against the legitimacy in Yemen. He asked all the Arab unionists to resolutely stand against any conspiring on the Yemen unity. It is considered, he further added, a prominent pan-Arab accomplishment in our contemporary age because setback of the unity constitutes a painful blow to the Arab dream aspiring for a prosperous Arab future.

Mr al-Khamisi also called upon all Arab countries to defend the Yemen unity against any conspiracy.

Daily Terms Situation in North 'Very Bad'

JN0805092994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 8 May (INA)—The AL-THAWRAH newspaper has said our Kurdish people are the principal losers in the bloody clashes taking place between the Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani groups in northern Iraq. The newspaper, the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in an article today that our people have been afflicted by these agents, servants of foreigners, and other criminals and highwaymen.

The newspaper adds: Current events in northern Iraq are taking place under foreign interference in Iraq's domestic affairs and in the absence of a central authority, which can run the affairs of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, which enjoyed prosperity before the 30-state aggression.

The newspaper says that as a result of the current situation in northern Iraq, our Kurish people have won nothing but hunger, death, destruction, displacement, the absence of security, and the stealing and smuggling of the property of the state and the people, and that the region has become a fertile ground for terrorists, foreigners, and Zionist and foreign espionage networks.

The paper adds that Iraq has several times warned against foreign interference, but there are people who enjoy living under the bayonets of the United States and other sides, who want to serve foreigners at the expense of their brothers, and who tamper with the people's security in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region.

The paper stresses that due to foreign interference in domestic affairs, the situation in northern Iraq has become very bad.

The newspaper says established historical and geographic facts for thousands of years, as well as the real feelings of the sons of our Kurdish people in northern Iraq, indicate that the future is a for strong, unified Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

The paper says that all the conspiracies of the Zionist enemies and the servants of foreigners will go to waste, and history will remember the positions of the men who defended national unity and Iraq's honor.

Concluding, the paper says history will have no mercy on those who remain outside the national ranks and who carry weapons to harm Iraq's unity and serve foreigners.

Saddam Chairs Armed Forces General Command Meeting

JN0805145894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1444 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 8 May (INA)—Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commander in Chief Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, Defense Minister Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, and a number of Interior Ministry officials.

Rabin Sees 'United Jerusalem' in Final Arrangement

TA0805184994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he foresees a united Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty and as Israel's capital also in the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians. Mr. Rabin was speaking to our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky at a reception hosted by Mayor Ehud Olmert at Jerusalem's City Hall to mark the beginning of the Jerusalem Day celebrations.

Mr. Rabin noted that Jerusalem is the heart of the Jewish people and, consequently, is the heart of hearts of the State of Israel.

Rabin on Refugee Issue, MK's Presence in Jericho

TA0605145794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that speaking at a lecture in Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said Israel is not committed to allow the return of Palestinian refugees from the Six-Day War. Mr. Rabin pointed that according to the Oslo Declaration of Principles, a quadripartite committee consisting of Israel, the PLO, Egypt, and Jordan will be set up to discuss the question of these refugees. The prime minister affirmed that Israel is in no way committed to the figures cited in this context or to return the refugees. He went on to say that the issue of the War of Independence refugees will be discussed in the negotiations on the permanent solution, while Israel, for its part, will raise the question of the Jewish refugees from the Arab countries.

Referring to the Knesset members [MK] holed up in a synagogue in Jericho, Mr. Rabin described their actions a political manifestation under false religious pretenses. He pointed out that the MK's presence at the site necessitates the deployment of soldiers to watch over them. He said it is shameful that MK's should count on the fact that no order will be issued to forcibly evacuate them because of their parliamentary immunity. Nevertheless, Mr. Rabin noted, such wanton behavior may make it necessary to take the appropriate steps. In the meantime, until a decision is made, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will guard them.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the commander of the Central Command decided to allow MK's Hanan Porat and Dov Shilansky, along with a group of worshipers, to stay in the synagogue in Jericho until the end of the Sabbath, tomorrow evening. On Sunday and Monday, they will only be allowed to stay on the site during the daytime. The MK's promised that their supporters will leave the premises in the evening. The MK's said that in view of the prime minister's denunciation, they regard this decision as a kind of achievement that speaks for itself.

Cabinet, Knesset To Consider PLO Agreement 11 May

TA0805155194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The cabinet has authorized an additional 4,000 Palestinians from the territories to work inside Israel in tourism, industry, and agriculture. The cabinet ministers were told that the right-wing Knesset members [MK's] would be evacuated from the ancient synagogue in Jericho.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin noted that a precedent for such action had already been set.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the cabinet will convene on Wednesday [11 May] to ratify the agreement with the PLO. The agreement will also be brought before the Knesset for approval.

The cabinet also discussed the decision to promote Efi Fein to the rank of brigadier general after Minister Yosi Sarid raised the matter.

IDF General: No Timetable Yet for Gaza Withdrawal

TA0805185594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, has said there is as yet no timetable for the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. The area will be handed over to the Palestinians only after three conditions are met: the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] fully completes its deployment to protect the Jewish settlements, a liaison mechanism is set up, and the Palestinians are ready to enter the area.

Gen. Vilna'i said that according to plans, Palestinian policemen will enter the Gaza Strip within the next few days and that the IDF will hand over to them some 30 facilities formerly used by the IDF, the Prison Authority, and the Israel Police. He added that there will be no overlap in responsibility for the area, and that responsibility will be transferred in its entirety at a specific time. The transfer of powers will not be accompanied by joint Israeli-Palestinian ceremonies to prevent tempers from flaring, he noted.

Maj. Gen. 'Uzi Dayan, head of the General Staff's Planning Branch and a participant in the Cairo talks, said that all the points important to Israel had been safeguarded in the security segment of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the two generals were speaking at a news conference in Tel Aviv.

International Observer Force Arrives in Hebron

TA0805103994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The international force of observers is beginning its duties in Hebron today. The 160-strong force, including support staff and experts, comes from Norway, Denmark, and Italy and was agreed on by Israel and the PLO following the Hebron massacre in February. Mark Weiss reports from Hebron:

[Begin Weiss recording] I am speaking from the Hebron Municipality building. The international observer force has arrived in the town and has just been welcomed by Mayor al-Natshah at the Municipality building. He expressed [word indistinct] that the people will feel safer because of the arrival of the temporary international presence. He expects all the population to cooperate despite reports of threats from Islamic fundamentalists. The mayor told me that tomorrow a meeting will be held between the international observers and the Islamic fundamentalists in the town. The mayor said he believed their arrival will reduce the level of violence in the city. The observers arrived in a fleet of white Fiat Uno cars flying a white flag. They are all dressed in smart white uniforms. For most of them it is the first time they have arrived in the town and they are actually due to begin their work tomorrow. [end recording]

Rabin's Office Lacks U.S. 'Optimism' on Syrian Track

TA0805051894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is to arrive in Israel next Saturday [14 May] for shuttle diplomacy between Israel and Damascus. His arrival is due right after the Knesset is to vote on the Gaza-Jericho accord. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] American and Israeli officials say Secretary of State Warren Christopher is scheduled to arrive here on Saturday. According to the plan, he will have 24 hours during which to have talks with Israeli officials after the Sabbath and before the festival of Pentecost begins the night after. He would spend the Jewish festival in Damascus.

The Prime Minister's Office continues to insist that it does not share the optimism of the American secretary of state of the new substantive phase in the negotiations with Syria. In fact, an official in Jerusalem last night said Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has given a cool response to pressing on the Syrian track, as Israel still tries to digest the accord signed last week with the Palestinians.

As the new Palestinian self-rule begins to take effect on the ground, the Knesset will be requested to give its endorsement. Prime Minister Rabin is expected to ask the cabinet secretary today to present the agreements to the parliament. But because of the Histadrut election, the house will not meet Tuesday [10 May], and the debate is not expected until Wednesday. The government has the numbers to prevail. The debate before the vote will be a long one. Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss' office said last night he supports giving all 120 members of the house the opportunity to speak. The Wednesday session in the plenum is being rescheduled to start earlier in the day than originally planned, but still the estimate is that the second day of the debate on Thursday will last until late into the night if not Friday morning, and then the vote will take place.

The speaker makes the point that the Knesset vote is not actually binding on the government, but that it is taking place based on the precedent established by the Camp David accords with Egypt and followed last September when the Knesset approved the declaration of principles with the PLO. [end recording]

Prime Minister Rabin says Israel is interested in getting its troops out of the Gaza Strip, but that the withdrawal must be carried out in an orderly fashion. The premier said the timetable of the pullout will be determined based on arrangements worked out between working groups of the two sides. Rabin was responding to a Qol Yisra'el reporter's question at a Histadrut election rally in Beersheba.

Rabinovich Comments on Negotiations With Syria

TA0805073294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 May 94

[Report on telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States and the head of the delegation to the negotiations with Syria, by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan, on 8 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Friedman] Earlier this morning we spoke with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States and the head of the Israeli delegation to the bilateral talks with Syria. Our first question was whether Rabinovich shared the assessment of American officials that some dramatic or rapid progress had been made in the Syrian-Israeli dialogue?

[Rabinovich] No, I do not think that we should create an impression of dramatic progress. I think that several important things happened during the secretary of state's last visit. There were also some slight disappointments. A window of opportunity has been opened—the secretary of state is arriving in Europe in the middle of the month and he can easily fly to the Middle East. Since some degree of progress was nevertheless made in the last round of shuttle trips between Damascus and Jerusalem, I think that everyone—the Syrians, Israelis, and also the Americans—thought that this window of opportunity should be taken advantage of. However, this does not necessarily indicate any dramatic progress in the negotiations.

[Friedman] The term window of opportunity sounds like a very diplomatic expression to us. What is the size of this window and what opportunities can be seen through it?

[Rabinovich] This window has a time frame of several days and the opportunity lies in the very fact of the secretary's arrival. When Secretary of State Christopher was here last time, he knew he would be returning to Europe in the middle of May to discuss issues related to Bosnia. Therefore, a proposal to hold the next round of negotiations in the region in mid-May was already raised then. This indeed is happening.

[Friedman] You earlier spoke of the encouraging signs that the secretary of state discerned during his stay in Damascus. Perhaps you could tell us what those signs were?

[Rabinovich] The positive side of what took place during the secretary's last visit was that the Syrians for the first time came out with a comprehensive, detailed, and substantial reaction to all the components of our package. A reaction which was quite novel in some aspects. This is the positive side of things. The other two less positive facets are first and foremost the fact that the Syrians started off by adopting a tough negotiating position. There is a significant gap between the package we presented and the Syrian reaction. Second, the Syrians still refuse to relate to our proposals as a package. They still believe they can take the package's six components, extract those specific elements that are of interest to them—such as the issue of withdrawal—and focus exclusively on them. Our position was and remains that we are discussing a comprehensive package that must be treated as a whole.

[Friedman] Professor Rabinovich, you are still officially the head of the Syrian-Israeli bilateral committee which has not convened for a long time. Are we fated to be in a situation where any progress in the Syrian-Israeli track, in the event that such progress indeed takes place, can only be made when Secretary of State Christopher finds some free time on his agenda?

[Rabinovich] If one looks at the last nine months, the talks had a certain rhythm where momentum was created by the secretary of state's visits to the region or by the summit meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton. This momentum could then be translated into limited progress at the Washington talks; progress which could then be exploited in turn during the next visit. This was the talks' rhythm. Since not enough momentum has accrued to justify another round of negotiations in Washington, the talks have not been convened. We all hope that the upcoming visit will effect sufficient progress to justify holding another round of talks in Washington which will prove fruitful and constructive. We do not want to hold an empty round of talks.

[Dan] Prof. Rabinovich, a headline on the front page of HA'ARETZ reports that Israel has asked for $5 billion from the United States as financial compensation for returning the Golan Heights. Can you confirm this report?

[Rabinovich] No, I do not think that we want to get into any details. Speculation is rampant; however, the discussion was held in a very limited forum and I think that it is both preferable and possible that work on such a hypothetical aid package be conducted quietly. One must remember that this whole matter is conditional on both parties actually reaching an agreement and beginning to implement its arrangements. Everything is hypothetical and it is too early to start discussing details. Even if the details appearing in various articles are not accurate, I would prefer not to comment on them.

[Friedman] We are left with a lot of speculation and very little information. Thank you, Professor Rabinovich.

'Special' Military Aid Request to U.S for Golan

TA0805085094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 May 94 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben and 'Irit Rosenblum]

[Excerpts] Israel is asking the United States for $5 billion special military aid as compensation for the security risks involved in the Golan Heights withdrawal.

The United States and Israel will set up working groups of experts to discuss the details of the Israeli aid request, it was reported in talks held during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent visit to Israel.

The granting of the U.S. aid to Israel will require special legislation in congress. The Israeli aid request has two components:

1. The storing of more than $1.5 billion worth of arms and ammunition in emergency storehouses in Israel. The equipment will belong to the U.S. Armed Forces and will be guarded by them, but will be put at the service of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] during wartime.

2. Providing the IDF with sophisticated arms and intelligence, some of it state-of-the-art, so far not supplied to Israel.

In addition, Israel wants U.S. aid to remain at the present level of $3 billion for some time.

The secretary of state will arrive mid-month for another round of shuttle diplomacy between Jerusalem and Damascus.

Israel wants clarifications about the Syrian peace proposal Christopher delivered a week ago. Senior political sources said that Israel's request for clarifications mainly concerns the security arrangements on the Golan and issues relating to the implementation of the arrangement in stages. They said that Israel rejects the Syrian demand

for "symmetrical" security arrangements, and addresses questions to Syria on that issue.

Israel also wants to know what the Syrians mean when they talk about normalization within the framework of a peace settlement. Political sources in Israel said yesterday they believe that the chances of an imminent resumption of the Washington peace talks are very low and that the negotiations with Syria will be focused on Christopher's shuttle diplomacy in the near future.

Nevertheless, it is still unclear how long the secretary of state will have to invest in active mediation between Jerusalem and Damascus, and it appears that the formula for continued negotiations will be decided only after Christopher's upcoming visit and according to the progress that will be achieved in it. [passage omitted]

'Irit Rosenblum reports: Israel Television correspondent Linda Shertzer has been sent to Syria, and a series of reports she prepared there will be screened from tonight. Scherzer entered Syria on a foreign passport, but the Syrians knew she was Israeli.

U.S. Tourist Stabbed in West Bank Village

TA0705191494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] A 22-year-old American tourist was stabbed in the hand and wounded this afternoon outside the village of Husan, near the settlement of Betar. He was attacked as he was walking alone in the orchards. The stabber, a 17-year-old boy, fled the scene. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] clamped a curfew on Husan and arrested three suspects.

Rabin's Meeting With Japan's Kakizawa Detailed

TA0605131394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 May 94 p A2

[Report by Aluf Ben and Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said during his meeting yesterday with Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa that if Japan wishes to have an impact on the Middle East political process, it should embrace a balanced policy and show greater involvement in Israeli affairs.

Rabin said the Russians have realized that if they wish to influence the peace process, they cannot hold biased views. "Having understood that, the Russians decided to adopt a balanced policy, which allows them to influence events," the prime minister said.

The prime minister said that Japanese-Israeli relations have known difficulties, and although a favorable change has taken place over the past few years, there is room for continuing improvement. He stressed the importance of increased Japanese investment in Israel, which cannot be only a market for Japanese products. "U.S.-based multinational companies, such as Motorola, Digital, and IBM, have invested in Israel," Rabin noted.

The prime minister stressed Israel's commitment to the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord, explaining that at the PLO's request, the withdrawal from Gaza will take longer than anticipated. He asked Japan to increase its involvement in the peace process, mainly by exploiting its ties in the Arab world.

The prime minister asked his guest to raise the issue of the Israeli MIA's and Israel's request for new information on this issue during his forthcoming meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus.

The Japanese foreign minister said his country has pledged $200 million to the Palestinians over a two-year period. "Japan assists Jordan as well, and it is acting to convince Syria to join the multilateral talks," Kakizawa said. He added that Japan is committed to continued active participation in the multilateral process. Japan chairs the multilateral working group on environmental issues.

Kakizawa noted the developing Japan-Israel ties in the spheres of trade and scientific, technological, and cultural cooperation. He said his country is committed to action against the Arab boycott, and it misses no opportunity to pressure Arab countries to call off the boycott. [passage omitted]

The Japanese foreign minister surprised the prime minister by revealing that he had visited Israel in 1964. "My return after so many years reinforces the hope that we will see you in Japan as early as this year," Kakizawa said. Rabin accepted the invitation, explaining that his planned visit to Japan had been postponed due to developments in Israel. [passage omitted]

Proceedings of Joint Committee With Egypt Reported

Al-Majali, Sidqi Address Committee

JN0505201194 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1735 GMT 5 May 94

[Speeches by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi during the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee in Amman on 5 May—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Majali] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Your Excellency brother 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister of fraternal Egypt. Your Excellencies the ministers. It is my pleasure to welcome Your Excellency and the accompanying delegation in their second country, Jordan, to take part in the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee. These meetings are taking place within the context of intra-Arab cooperation and coordination, which we set in motion years ago in order to lay down the foundations for developing relations between our two fraternal countries in all fields.

The close relationship between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, as well as our relentless work in the best interests of our two countries and the Arab nation, serve to advance understanding and common action for the good of our two countries and people. Jordan believes that sisterly Egypt is a key player regionally and globally and is shouldering real responsibilities and facing challenges. We are confident that the wisdom and enlightenment of the Egyptian leadership will help secure all the requirements for the advancement, success, and prosperity of the brotherly people of Egypt and surmount all the hurdles that impede their development and advancement.

For our part, let me assure you that we share your anxieties and concerns over the challenges and risks the region is facing and the divisions and differences besetting its countries and leaders which lay them open to outside interference and designs. Brotherly Egypt has in the past borne many burdens, and together we shouldered onerous responsibilities, and we stood side by side in the face of the danger and aggression that targeted our Arab nation. We are meeting today to engage in joint constructive work and an exchange of views and consultations.

Mr. prime minister, in light of the painful Arab situation and proceeding from the fact that we were the closest in terms of defending the nation's interest and the first to offer sacrifices for it, we, in Egypt and Jordan, must exert ourselves to revitalize Arab solidarity and disperse the disarray and weakness that have cast a shadow over Arab ties.

This is not to say that we mean to turn the status quo upside down or overlook facts or try the impossible. Against the background of the changes taking place around us, a combination of the state of Jordan's relations with other Arab states, our long experience, and our appreciation of the sensibilities of the political and economic dimensions of the current stage, puts us in a position to propose an objective approach to lift the Arabs from the gloom engulfing them to a new state where logic and reason are the norm.

To attain this and resolve Arab differences, let us adopt a step-by-step approach where common interests take precedence over regional and narrow concerns. It should thus be possible for us to overcome many obstacles and sensibilities and minor disagreements, and these are bound to disappear with the passage of time. Alternatively, we can boost Arab ties on a bilateral basis and, in effect, produce further Arab cooperation and rapprochement that may clear the way for normalized Arab ties.

Mr. Prime Minister, we realize the gravity of the situation and the sensitivity of the stage. We must act before it is too late. This can take place only if we freeze Arab differences and postpone them until we overcome this difficult and complicated era in our history, pinpoint the faults and weaknesses, benefit from the lessons we learned in the present stage, discard the solutions and rules that will be imposed on us without our being a party in formulating them, proceed with dexterity and loyalty to defend the nation's objectives and interests, end this painful state of affairs and enter into happier stages where sincere cooperation and constructive understanding will prevail.

Mr. Prime Minister, the tough circumstances our nation is experiencing makes it all the more urgent that we overcome these differences and put the past behind us. This is essential if we are to achieve solidarity and intra-Arab cohesion in the interest of Arab security.

From this perspective, and in response to the wish of the brothers in Yemen, Jordan exerted efforts to help pave the way for the appropriate atmosphere that made the parties to the political dialogue in Yemen reach the pledge and accord document that was signed under his majesty King Husayn's auspices in Amman on 20 February 1994. This document reflected a concensus to pursue building the unified Yemeni state. In this context, we sincerely wish the Yemeni brothers success in implementing this accord.

It pains us to hear today the reports about the military confrontations among them. We ask God to protect them from internecine fighting. He is the one who responds to wishes.

The painful state of affairs the fraternal Iraqi people are experiencing deserves from us every attention and serious thinking to support their salvation.

Mr. Prime Minister, you know that Jordan shares with fraternal Egypt the commitment and work for reaching a just, and lasting peace in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the principles of international legitimacy, and the Madrid terms of reference on the return of the land in exchange for peace. Our

participation also stems from a constant strategy and a deep conviction, and a genuine approach to attain a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution on all tracks; a peace that future generations will approve and that achieves stability, and secures the return of all the Arab rights and that will provide them with a free and dignified life, and avert the region conflicts and calamities.

Mr. Prime Minister, you know well what Jordan and His Majesty King Husayn have offered since the launching of the peace process in Madrid in terms of constructive and positive efforts and contributions to push the peace process ahead, to highlight the independent Palestinian identity, and enable the Palestinian command, the Palestinian people's legitimate and sole representative, to exercise its role in the peace process by providing the umbrella that made it possible for them to overcome the difficulties that obstructed the peace process, and allowed the Palestinian party to participate in the Madrid conference on an equal footing with the other parties. Out of its belief that the Palestinian cause is the core of the dispute, Jordan did not ratify the working agenda with the Israeli side, making it dependent on the attainment of real progress on the Palestinian track. When this progress was achieved through the independent decision and option embodied in the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles Jordan supported this agreement and ratified the joint Jordanian-Israeli agenda. Jordan has also alloted special importance to coordination among the Arab parties that are involved in the peace process and worked for enhancing it and institutionalizing it, hoping this will bolster the Arab stand of negotiation in a manner that will achieve the supreme interests of all the Arab parties through constant consultations and the exchange of views and the coordination of stands on the peace process and its developments. However, and with great regret, coordination did not rise to the aspired level and was governed by whims and seasonal stands.

Mr. Prime Minister, despite Jordan's constructive and positive role in the peace process, both the bilateral and multilateral parts of it, this role did not receive the support and appreciation it deserves. Pressures increased on Jordan by tightening the noose around the Gulf of Aqaba, Jordan's lungs and its economic outlet despite Jordan's commitment to the implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy; something which made us insist on the need to end this tribulation and the losses our economy is sustaining.

In light of the recent meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the positive signs that there is an understanding of the situation, and of the Jordanian request, and the possibility of reaching arrangements that would end this tribulation, we hope that this meeting will produce positive results, the blockade will be lifted, and a definitive solution to this problem found so Jordan can pursue its positive course toward the peace process.

Mr. Prime Minister: The changes on the international level, the emergence of the new world order, and the world's moving toward the formation of influential regional economic blocs and the development projects and programs the region could witness in the post-peace era makes us dutybound to review the Arab state of affairs from all its political, security, and economic aspects. The economic challenges that we could face soon calls on us to prepare ourselves to deal with them on sound and studied bases. Within this framework, there is a need to upgrade consultations, coordination, and the exchange of views in a manner that would secure the economic interests of our people and countries.

Our meeting today, and Your Excellency's visit to your second country embodies these objectives and expresses the fraternal relationship which binds us. This visit will give us the opportunity to review all that is important to us, whether in the field of enhancing bilateral relations, or tackling Arab and regional causes of mutual interest by placing them within the proper framework that serves the interests of the two fraternal peoples and achieve their aspirations and objectives.

I hope that their excellencies the brother ministers on both sides will meet, hold consultations, and work together. I am certain that their meetings will be permeated by an atmosphere of brotherhood. I have no doubt that we will emerge with positive results.

We support the PLO and consider it the sole legitimate representative [of the Palestinian people]. We will always stand on its side. Thank you.

[Sidqi] I cannot find words to express our thanks and appreciation for the warm hospitality my colleagues and I have received since our arrival yesterday. Jordan's warm hospitality and generosity is well known. Thank you, very much.

Thank you, Your Excellency, for the kind statements you just made about Egypt and the entire Arab nation, and for your good hopes about the future of intra-Arab cooperation.

Mr. Prime Minister, allow me to completely second everything you just said in this regard. Any objective observer of the Arab nation's situation following the Gulf war will totally agree with your analysis of this issue. Thanks to God, we have begun to overcome this stage, which I do not want describe because this is not something for the listeners' ears.

Mr. Prime Minister, allow me to say that I, as well as all of Egypt, second every word you have said about this broad field concerning our hopes for the Arab nation, which go far beyond what currently exists on the ground. True, there are some efforts being exerted in this area. These attempts, however, cannot deal with the difficult situation the Arab nation now faces.

Your Excellency, allow me to add that we carry our appreciation and love to fraternal Jordan. We bring all our pride in and recognition of Jordan's serious and effective role in events in the Arab arena. If we recall the

history of the Arab nation, at least in recent times, or what we can call the contemporary period, we find that Jordan has played, and is still playing, a principle and basic role in all the events facing this nation.

That is not all. Jordan plays a role that extends beyond the Arab arena in to the international arena, due to His Majesty King Husayn's wisdom and ability to hold contacts and dialogues that serve the interests of the generous Arab nation, which Your Excellency spoke about at length.

We came to convey this message. We came to say that through this meeting we, as Your Excellency said, truly want to overcome a stage and period that was really a painful period. I second Your Excellency's statement that it is our duty to look toward the future. In terms of dealing with the past, Jordan and Egypt together can play a basic role in achieving the reconciliation that is needed between Arab countries. I say necessary reconciliation because the Arab nation will not be able to face what is currently taking place around it and, indeed, what will soon take place inside it, if it has not already begun to do that in terms of events and challenges which no one Arab country can face on its own. We did well. I say frankly that this is due to your initiative and His Majesty King Husayn's initiative to bring Jordan and Egypt closer again. We all hope to achieve this.

Your Excellency, you have touched on a very important and serious issue that, I believe, is known by everyone in Jordan and Egypt. I do not think anyone in either country can belittle the grave and momentous challenges we face.

Let us leave the Arab nation and take a look at what is taking place in the world. As Your Excellency said, the world is heading toward a new situation. I must stress that none of us can face this situation alone.

Yesterday, I talked with some of the brother members of the fraternal Jordanian delegation. In fact, at least in the field of economic coordination, cooperation, and integration, the Arab Common Market was signed in March or April 1957 before the signing of the European Common Market [ECM]. As you are aware, the ECM was signed in May 1957, one or two months after us. They have now arrived at semi-unity, not only economic unity but economic and political unity, and will have full unity by the end of the century. We are still talking about the importance of this matter and this necessary thing. Points of similarity and identity among Arab nations are greater than those in Western Europe.

How can we deal with these blocs when we are separated, each on his own, and when we are unable to complete the coordination reached in the past?. This coordination was cut. We want to resume it, and we cannot do this. As Your Excellency is aware, and as I and all the brothers present here, Jordanian or Egyptian, are aware, there are difficulties and things that prevent the completion of this agreement, or coordination. Why? I do not know.

Today—and we have all heard about it, nothing can hide in the modern world—how can we face contemporary developments in the region, the approach toward peace. This course cannot be reversed. Neither in regard to the Palestinian brothers—and Your Excellency referred to this very accurately and clearly. [sentence as heard]. Jordan and Syria are proceeding on the same path. Lebanon is the same. After a short while, everything ... [pauses] I mean this thing is inevitable. Even if there are snags or differences between the Arab and Israelis sides. The Arab side is represented by Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and even Palestine. Until yesterday there were differences that had to be agreed on. This is not the end, this is the beginning of a phase that brings numerous challenges to all of us.

I would like to note one point, namely, what we hear—and I have just said nothing remains secret—of preparations for the so- called Middle Eastern market. Will Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, or any Gulf state enter this market alone? I do not think so. A kind of full cooperation and coordination among all of us is necessary. What Jordan produces, Egypt does not, and what Egypt produces, Jordan does not. Thus, cooperation and integration in the sense we all know will be realized.

The challenges are great. The most dangerous is this latest challenge that deals with the possibility of establishing a Middle Eastern market. This is just an idea that has not materialized yet. But I think the significance of this is that there can be only cooperation between the states in the region. The peace is being made to pave the way for this. This is my view. All the peace arrangements are designed in order to have a sort of economic coordination and the establishment of a Middle East market in which Israel plays a basic role. This is no secret to you or to us or to anyone on the Arab nation. All these preparations are being done to establish this Middle Eastern market. The question is very serious. We we cannot face it in silence. I have proposed to Your Excellency in passing during our talks yesterday that these dangers and challenges require us to sit together, think together, and cooperate and then integrate in order to enter as one front in this market, if possible. This is possible, there is nothing impossible. We can now realize that differences occur even among friends but these are settled in the end.

When differences occurred on the GATT between the United States on the one hand and Western Europe, especially France, on the other, they settled these differences. They did not leave each other and remain in their own countries, discussing issues in confusion. They sat down and settled their differences. We must do the same regardless of the differences among us and regardless of the variance in interests. I am fully in agreement with Your Excellency on joint issues, joint interests. The subjective issues and issues that deal with each state alone can be done by each state alone as far as is possible. If it needs cooperation from others, well and good, as you have done with our brothers in Yemen and as we have also tried to do with them. Regrettably, you are aware that the news from Yemen is absolutely worrisome.

The coming challenges are very great. They require all of us, not only Jordan and Egypt, to forget and bypass—as Your Excellency said—the differences that exist now. If we sit down together all these differences will be liquidated. I am aware that many sides, especially the Arab League, are exerting efforts to realize this objective and support this. I pray God will speed their efforts.

Please allow me to say something about Egypt's cares and problems, which you hear about in Egyptian press and other media. There is an unlimited exaggeration of the problem of terrorism in Egypt. In fact, we in Egypt do not feel it as do others who look toward Egypt, like the foreign press, radios, television and other channels. Advances in television are such that today in Amman you can see America and Asia. There are exaggerations about some terrorist incidents in Egypt. I do not know the reason for these exaggerations. I say there are some sporadic incidents.

Another subject, which I will briefly mention because it is a wide subject. We are all in the same boat regarding it, namely, the process of contacting international bodies, the IMF or the World Bank. I am aware that Jordan has contacts with these two international bodies. Egypt has been having continuous contacts with them. This is because we needed them in the process of rescheduling the debts that accumulated. We are embarking on an economic reform program which is characterized by encouraging private economic activities and the privitization of part of the public sector.

There is also the rectification of disorder in various structures, be it the balance of payment ... [pauses] now we have a surplus. The general budget's deficit is disappearing. This year it will only be 2 percent. The inflation rates have dropped. in 1986, the inflation was 25-26 percent. Some say it was 30 and 35 percent. Today, by all estimations, inflation does not exceed 7.3 percent. This demonstrates that economic reform is proceeding at a good rate. We are continuing, with the IMF and the bank, or without them. We will complete the program of the economic reform. I am aware that Jordan is proceeding in the same direction and it has had good results in the economic reform program.

On the issue of the problem [words indistinct] Germany, Italy. All these states are exposed [pauses] Turkey, which is a neighboring state and we are aware of its news. What is happening in Egypt is very little, God be praised. It has not affected the course of the Egyptian economy as these people wanted. It affected tourism but did not affect the other various economic sectors. The investment sector is good. There is a great rate of investment which is increasing month by month, both Arab and foreign investments received in Egypt. This is a sign of trust in Egypt and its economy.

Concerning terrorism, I really wanted to place before the eyes of Your Excellency and the brother members of the Jordanian delegation, that it is not as serious as it seems in some papers and radio and television broadcasts—CNN and others. Now they are retreating from this method because they found that it is no use. However, I wanted to place this picture before Your Excellency so that you may be reassured about Egypt. It is now in good shape and will always remain in good shape in the service of the Arab nation.

We are coming with an open heart and open minds and we expect good results from this meeting of the Joint Egyptian-Jordanian Higher Committee after a period of leave that extended for about four years. However, we are returning with complete understanding of the nature of the current phase and the need to realize what Your Excellency proposed. This is because no Arab country can live alone in this contemporary world with all its huge challenges. If these challenges are not faced with unity and integration, their negative results on the Arab states will be greater than anyone can imagine. Only God knows the extent of this negative side.

In conclusion, I hope that you will accept from me and my colleague our thanks and appreciation for the very cordial hospitality you accorded us since we arrived in fraternal Jordan last night. I hope that Egyptian-Jordanian relations will witness progress, success, and expansion in all fields, and I wish all of you health and success. I hope the meeting of this committee will realize what we all are aspiring to realize. God willing, this meeting will be followed by other meeting and we hope they will be held in Cairo next time. On this occasion, I extend an invitation for Your Excellency and your minister colleagues at a time which we will agree on at the end of this round.

I wish Jordan and its beloved king happiness, health, and success, God willing.

Peace and blessings of God be upon you.

Final Session Held; Minutes Signed

JN0605144894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee has held its final meeting at the Prime Ministry. The session was cochaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. At the conclusion of the session, the minutes of the committee meetings were signed.

Our reporter Jawad al-'Umari has the details:

[Begin al-'Umari recording] During the final session, the Jordanian and Egyptian sides approved the minutes drafted by the preparatory committee of the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Joint Committee, for its 11th session, held in Amman from 2-5 May under the chairmanship of Dr. Ziyad Fariz, the planning minister and acting minister of industry and trade, and Dr. Yusuf Butrus-Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for international cooperation.

The minutes were signed for Jordan by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and for fraternal Egypt by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. The minutes stressed the important role that can be played by Egypt and Jordan in restoring Arab solidarity and formulating a unified Arab position on various issues. This is in addition to finding a mechanism for coordination and consultation between the two countries and informing each other of their respective positions on various issues. Egypt will also support Jordan's request to join the GATT and help Jordan benefit from Egypt's experience since joining the GATT.

The minutes further stated that the two sides welcome the launching of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho as a step down the road to achieving a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution in the region.

In the field of economic cooperation, the minutes reviewed the status of the holding company, the Egyptian-Jordanian Investment and Development Company, as well as the company's current and future plans being implemented in both countries.

The minutes also highlighted cooperation between the two fraternal countries and ways of developing further cooperation in trade, customs affairs, planning, industry, specifications and standards, energy, mining, agriculture, transportation, communications, health and medicine, education, tourism, culture and information, sports and youth, and manpower. In addition, the minutes recommended holding the next round of talks in Cairo during the second half of November of this year.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi are now holding a news conference to discuss the meetings and answer reporters' questions on various issues. [end recording]

Statement, News Conference Reported

JN0605170994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 May 94

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee concluded in Amman this afternoon. The final session, held at the Prime Ministry, was cochaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

At the conclusion of the session, Dr. al-Majali and Dr. Sidqi signed the minutes of the committee. A final statement was then issued. The statement addressed the current Arab situation and the growing relations between the two fraternal countries, as well as ways of enhancing them in all fields. Dr. al-Majali and Dr. Sidqi also held a news conference in which they answered reporters' questions in all fields. Details are in the following report:

Following the signing ceremony of the minutes of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi held a news conference in which they spoke about the results of the meetings and answered questions by reporters and other media representatives.

Dr. Ziyad Fariz, the minister of planning and acting minister of industry and trade, who chaired the Jordanian side to the meetings of the preparatory committee, read a press statement, saying:

"In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A press statement: On this blessed morning, praise be to God, the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee concluded its meetings at the Prime Ministry under Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, prime minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

"The two sides stressed the importance of these meetings within the framework of their quest for cooperation, coordination, and joint action launched by the two countries years ago in order to lay the foundations for developing relations between the two fraternal countries in all fields.

"During these meetings, there was a review of Arab, regional, and international developments, as well as the role of the leadership in both countries, and their fraternal relations, in promoting joint Arab action and achieving Arab interests in the face of challenges and threats to the region and the problems and disputes this region is suffering, which could subject it to foreign intervention and ambitions.

"The two sides called for efforts to resume the drive for Arab solidarity and for organizing inter-Arab relations through resolving Arab differences in accordance with a pan-Arab perspective that focuses on the Arab nation's common interests and concerns.

"Out of the awareness of the two sides of the critical and important nature of the current stage being experienced by the Arab nation and the region in general, in addition to international changes, such as the emergence of influential regional economic blocs, the two sides stressed the importance of a comprehensive review of the Arab situation, in terms of its political, security, and economic aspects, to help in facing the emergent challenges.

"The two sides expressed their intense concern and distress over the serious, fast-paced developments in Yemen. They urge the brothers to stop fighting immediately and return to political dialogue to settle the crisis. This would preserve the unity and interests of the fraternal Yemeni people.

"The two sides also expressed hope that the problem of inspecting al-'Aqabah-bound vessels would be settled in a manner that safeguards Jordan's interests.

"The two sides stressed the importance of activating the work of the committees studying the relations of various sectors in the two countries, as well as the need for these committees to meet to ensure continued dialogue and coordination between the two sides on all levels.

"The decisions also provide for cooperation in all fields, the most important of which are: Political coordination:

The two sides stressed the important role that Egypt and Jordan can play to restore Arab solidarity and create a unified Arab position on various issues. This is in addition to coordination and consultation on various regional and international issues, and facing the new developments on the regional and Arab levels. They also welcome the signing of the Cairo agreement for Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, as a step down the road to reaching a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution in the region."

In the economic field, the statement notes an agreement to form an economic working team to devise a joint mechanism to discuss regional and international issues and cooperation and coordination in these fields. The two sides also reviewed the status of the Egyptian-Jordanian Investment Company and its plans in both countries.

The statement also notes an agreement to implement Trade Protocol No. 1 that stemmed from the agreement signed in 1992. The two sides stressed the importance and need for coordination and exchange of expertise in financial affairs, planning, energy, mining, agriculture, water, transportation and communications, health and medicine, tourism, culture and information, in addition to activating a cooperation agreement in the field of manpower.

In the field of higher education, the final statement says:

"It has been agreed that the Jordanian Ministry of Higher Education will set aside 100 seats annually for the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education for the first university degree in various specialties. In return, the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education will set aside 110 seats for the Jordanian Ministry of Higher Education for graduate studies, in addition to 15 seats as scholarships for graduate studies and 300 seats annually for the first university degree at Egyptian universities."

After the press statement was read, Dr.al-Majali and Dr. Sidqi replied to journalists' questions.

On his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn yesterday, Dr.'Atif Sidqi said:

"The truth is that I was honored yesterday when His Majesty King Husayn received me and my colleagues, the members of the accompanying delegation. We spoke with all clarity and frankness about the present Arab state of affairs, the state of affairs the Arab nation is experiencing. His majesty's viewpoints and those of the prime minister are nearly the same as our viewpoints and analysis in Egypt, both of His Excellency President Husni Mubarak and the government. Of course, there is always a complete agreement on these issues.

"However, the main problem, the topical issue during this meeting was the question of Yemen—of course, you all are following this issue—and the efforts Jordan has exerted to reconcile the two Yemeni sides, as well as the efforts Egypt has and is still exerting in this respect. These efforts were also discussed. The objective of his majesty the king and of Jordan is the same as that of His Excellency President Mubarak and of Egypt.

"There were also His Majesty King Husayn's statements about the relations between Egypt and Jordan. I would like to emphasize to you that these relations have always been good. His majesty the king visited Egypt. God willing, His Excellency President Husni Mubarak will do the same, will visit his brother in Jordan. Thanks be to God, we overcame the susceptibilities that used to exist. I say that I sensed during my meeting with his majesty the king that his policies are pan-Arab and in the interest of the entire Arab nation. His majesty is fully concerned that we emerge from the present differences in the Arab arena to a state of affairs that will bring good through peaceful and objective methods."

Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali replied to a question on the nature of the Jordanian-Palestinian relations, saying:

"The Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is a unique relationship that stands out. We were not satisfied with the coordination because we always felt and believed that coordination should always be on all levels and in the best of circumstances. But, at the same time, we excused the brothers because they were busy with major political issues in their negotiations with Israel. There was no opportunity for coordination as we had wished. However, the coordination, to some extent, was good. Now that the signing has taken place, we hope and I explained this to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat—and His Majesty King Husayn has also told brother 'Arafat—that the time has come to have the various committees meet because it is essential to do so. We believe that the reasons that may once have stood in the way of good coordination no longer exist after the signing. We ask God that this takes place in the near future."

In response to a question concerning developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track in the peace process and the siege imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah, especially after His Majesty King Husayn's recent meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Dr. al-Majali said:

"Concerning the siege of al-'Aqabah, I have recently noted that, since that meeting, no inspections have been carried out. But is it over? We are still awaiting the final word and final decision. We hope that we will receive word soon. There are still some complications regarding the way matters will be conducted. As to what extent this issue will influence the course of events, I told you that we cannot have intensive participation in the multilateral talks, in which the main focuses are economic and social, at a time when we are still under the economic pressure of the siege.

"However, in such matters, we do not believe in secrecy, threats, or warnings. We have pursued a cultural approach. We have participated in multilateral negotiations, but at a low level. This is because we want the entire world to hear that we are being wronged. I believe that the world has heard us. We have noticed interest by all parties. A short while ago and during the meetings, his excellency the brother [Egyptian] prime minister clearly

expressed concern over the situation to which this siege has led. We will collectively work to make sure that the siege will not be maintained or reimposed.

"The bilateral talks, I believe, were suspended because of what had happened in Hebron. After the signing of Palestinian agreement in Cairo, I believe the two cosponsors will make sure that these negotiations are resumed. Of course, we always believe in the need for a comprehensive solution. Therefore, we hope that there will be progress on other tracks, besides the Jordanian track, so that we can arrive at a comprehensive, just solution.

"By the way, I want to answer a question that has not been posed. Some people, misunderstanding the situation, believe that the Palestinians have reached a separate solution. For the next two years, it should be noted, the brother Palestinians will be negotiating what we started negotiating two years ago. The issue they are negotiating differs from the issues that we, the Syrians, and the Lebanese are negotiating. Therefore, I believe that what they have arrived at is an essential step. God willing, this step will be so positive that they will need less than two years and they will begin negotiations on the final status as soon as possible so that all these tracks can move with relatively equal pace."

On the positive steps being taken to achieve Arab reconciliation, Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said:

"It is official Egyptian policy that Egypt welcomes Arab reconciliation. Therefore, we have welcomed the Arab League's efforts in this regard. Arab reconciliation has started, but we have not reached the end. We must be frank with ourselves. We must not bury our heads in the sand. A reconciliation must be effected."

[Al-Majali] "If his excellency the prime minister permits me to interrupt, I would like to say that the appropriate approach would be to declare that we [the Arabs] will solve our differences, but over a specific number of years [Egyptian Prime Minister Sidqi is heard saying "exactly"]. The first three to four years would serve as a grace period, during which we would not raise this issue, but look for points of agreement. We should have a collective stand on the new regional order being planned for this region. If we can do so and put off the differences until a later stage. Then, differences will be examined and everyone will be told whether he is right or wrong. This may be the key. The Arab League will then call on all brothers to put off their differences. We cannot tell them forget these differences all at once. [Sidqi is heard commenting "this is impossible"] Rather, shelve them for a while until we cross the very serious bridge lying ahead of us, for fear that we all might be drowned."

[Sidqi] "Also, with the permission of His Excellency 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, please allow to reaffirm that this is the best approach. We should go into this process step by step. Sharp differences can be shelved. We can start from the points of agreement. This is the practical and sound approach. I believe this is the approach that is being pursued."

More on News Conference

JN0705144394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 May 94 pp 1, 26

[By Caroline Faraj]

[Excerpts] AL-RA'Y—Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said that the Palestinian brothers achieved a major step in Cairo. [passage omitted] This came in a joint news conference held at the Prime Ministry yesterday by Prime Minister Dr. al-Majali and Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi at the conclusion of the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee. [passage omitted]

Asked about Egyptian-Palestinian relations and the news reports that Egypt should first approve of any Palestinian decision before it is announced, Dr. Sidqi denied these reports, saying: Egypt places itself, its resources, and its experience at the disposal of any Arab country. Therefore, it is natural to place our resources and experience at the disposal of the Palestinians, particularly the PLO.

Dr. Sidqi added: However, it is incorrect to say that no Palestinian decisions are made without referring to Egypt. Palestinian decisions are made by the Palestinians themselves. We only help and express our opinions, which are sometimes taken into consideration and sometimes not. We have never imposed anything on the PLO since the time it was recognized as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people inside and outside [the occupied territory].

Dr. Sidqi indicated that Egypt has been maintaining good relations with the PLO for a long time. He said: Relations between us and the PLO have never been completely severed. Even during times of disagreement, contacts were held. The Palestine question is the heart of the Middle East issue. Therefore, it is in our common interest that we hold almost daily talks and consultations. [passage omitted]

In response to a question on whether Jordan has asked Egypt to intervene with the United States to lift the al-'Aqabah siege, Dr. Sidqi said: There is no mediation in this regard.

He added: We do, however, welcome the recent developments aimed at finding a solution to this problem because it harms Jordan. Egypt is ready to intervene and mediate should the need arise. However, the current proposals respond to most of Jordan's wishes and legitimate demands. This fact is supported by Egypt. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri Decides To Stay Home, Refrain From Work

Action Described as 'Political Stance'

NC0805180994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Beirut, 8 May (MENA)—Semi-official Lebanese sources have stated that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has decided to stay home and to refrain from doing his work in what these sources have described as a political stance and not a constitutional one. No official statement has yet been issued by the prime minister on the reasons for his decision to remain at home. However, informed sources have told the MENA correspondent that Prime Minister al-Hariri is facing difficulties in reshuffling his cabinet with a view to improving the chances of Christian representation in the Lebanese Government to remedy the frustration felt by the Christians in Lebanon.

The sources said al-Hariri's decision does not mean he will resign. The MENA correspondent says several ministers, as well as political, religious, and military figures, including Army Commander Gen. Emile Lahhud, have visited al-Hariri at his mansion in the Quraytim area of Beirut to ask him to change his mind.

Informed sources in Beirut say al-Hariri's decision to stop doing his job has moved what could be considered a cabinet crisis into the Lebanese streets. In the past few days there has been a lot of speculation in the press and in political quarters about an imminent cabinet reshuffle to include some Christian political figures in the government, such as Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah, plus a member from the National Liberal Party and other Christian figures.

The situation is still vague regarding the fate of the Lebanese Government. Prime Minister al-Hariri canceled a radio and television interview that was scheduled to be aired live tonight, in which he would have addressed questions and speculations about a possible cabinet reshuffle.

Cancels 11 May Cabinet Session

NC0905053294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has canceled the Cabinet session due to be held on Wednesday [11 May].

Buwayz Makes Statement, Leaves for South Africa

NC0705192894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has described the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as president of South Africa as an international event, nay, even historic. As he was leaving for South Africa to take part in the inauguration ceremony, Buwayz clarified that Lebanon's relations with this country have been normal and natural since it eliminated racism. However, the application of this decision requires some time. We have this report from our colleague Darwish 'Ammar from Beirut airport:

[Begin recording] ['Ammar] Mr. Buwayz, you leave today for South Africa to take part in President Nelson Mandela's inauguration ceremony. What would you like to say on this occasion with regard to Lebanon's participation in this ceremony?

[Buwayz] Of course, the election and inauguration of President Mandela after the historic reforms in South Africa are considered an international, nay, even historic event. This is so because of the developments that have taken place there and also because of the effects of this development on the political and humanitarian level. By this I mean the cancellation of racial discrimination and openness toward democracy and freedom. There is no doubt that Lebanon should not stay away from this event. It should not be kept away from the significance of this event, both from the aspect of democracy, freedom, and coexistence, and from the aspect of the extensive historic and ancient Lebanese presence in South Africa, where there is a large Lebanese community.

Proceeding from this, the visit on this occasion acquires a special character. Therefore, Lebanon had to attend this international celebration.

['Ammar] When will the Arab League's resolution on ending the boycott of South Africa come into effect in Lebanon?

[Buwayz] The resolution to cancel the boycott is a decision that was made in the Arab League during the last session over a month ago. The Lebanese Council of Ministers applied this resolution in the session before last by canceling all aspects of the political, economic, and trade boycott. Thus, relations now between Lebanon and South Africa are natural and very normal.

['Ammar] Will there be diplomatic representation between the two countries?

[Buwayz] We now have a general consulate there. We have made the decision to normalize diplomatic relations. Of course, the implementation of this decision requires some material and financial support which might not be available immediately.

['Ammar] On the sidelines of the visit to South Africa, will you hold meetings with the participants in the inauguration ceremony such as representatives of various countries taking part in the ceremony?

[Buwayz] As with every international meeting of this caliber, the celebration will include a large number of heads of state, prime ministers, and foreign ministers. This event might provide the opportunity for side meetings with some officials.

['Ammar] During your stopover in Paris, will you hold talks and meetings in the French capital?

[Buwayz] No. Our stopover in Paris is purely mechanical.

['Ammar] Mr. Minister, there are some rumors about a possibility of your visiting the United States. Will you be going to the United States?

[Buwayz] I was supposed to visit Florida in response to an invitation from the University of Florida to deliver a lecture on Lebanon and the peace process here. However, some events have made me change my plans. It has been postponed to an as yet unspecified date. [end recording]

Doctor Says Ja'ja' in Good Health

NC0705093994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Judicial investigator Judge Munir Hunayn has received a report submitted by forensic doctor Subhi Germanus, who checked Dr. Samir Ja'ja', commander of the dissolved Lebanese Forces Party. The checkup showed that he is very normal, is in good health, and does not need any special treatment.

U.S. Seen Financing New Refugee Camps

NC0705194794 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 30 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Badar Bakhus al-Fighali from Paris]

[Text] Western diplomatic sources have received a secret report indicating that the United States has donated $100 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). UNRWA will use this money to buy land in 'Akkar and northern al-Biqa' and build modern camps for Palestinian refugees to replace the camps destroyed during the Lebanese civil war and other camps which will be dismantled in the southern areas close to the Lebanese-Israeli border.

According to reliable sources within UNRWA, the U.S. plan, whose implementation has actually begun in Lebanon, aims to settle the Palestinians living in Lebanon since 1948 and for which there is no hope of returning to their original homes.

Diplomatic reports circulating in Paris last week indicated that Israel is trying to persuade Jordan to settle the Palestinian refugees in the Jordan Valley. This Israeli policy is incorporated in a booklet prepared by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres containing his concept of the future of joint cooperation between Jordan and Israel. This booklet was scheduled to be distributed to the multilateral talks on water that were held in the Sultanate of Oman recently.

Minister Criticizes 'Arafat Over Self-Rule

NC0805191794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Labor Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin and Deputy Dr. Ayyub Humayyid were invited by the Social and Cultural Club in al-Qusaybah yesterday evening to attend a seminar called "Lebanon Between Plan and Reaction." It was held at the al-Husayni Club in the town of al-Qusaybah in al-Nabatiyah. The seminar was attended by a member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's regional command, 'Ali Zayn Ghandur, who headed a delegation of the party's command in the south. The central labor representative of the Amal movement, Bassam Tulays, also attended, as did the members of Amal's command in the south; a delegation from the Syrian Social Nationalist Party; a number of officials; representatives from clubs and societies in the region; and the residents of the township.

Minister al-Amin delivered a lecture in which he discussed the Arab-Israeli negotiations that started with the Madrid conference. He explained the various stages of these negotiations. Minister al-Amin then discussed the U. S. position, which promised to play the role of (?honest) broker in the talks. But the Israeli stand insisted that there cannot be negotiations with all the Arabs, but rather with every Arab country separately.

Minister al-Amin added that President Hafiz al-Asad tried to rectify the situation by balancing out the negotiations after Yasir 'Arafat stepped out of the peace equation, took sides with Israel, and dealt Arab solidarity a blow in one of its most sensitive areas. The fact that 'Arafat stepped out of the peace process clearly weakened all the peace courses at every stage. In a public Israeli attempt to absorb the results of the Geneva summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton, Israel started trying to abort the results of this summit. The summit had concluded with one very clear fact: that the solution needs to be comprehensive and include all the occupied Arab territories. In other words, Israel must withdraw from all the occupied territories so that we can progress one step forward toward peace and eventually toward comprehensive peace.

Yasir 'Arafat signed the agreement in Washington and does not have any idea what is awaiting the Palestinian people, added al-Amin. All that Yasir 'Arafat has gained is that Rabin, after a public appearance on TV, agreed to shake Yasir 'Arafat's hand after Clinton put pressure on him. During the second signing ceremony, the various stages of which we saw in the auditorium of the Conference Center in Cairo, a real theater piece was being acted out in front of us. This play has greatly harmed Palestinian and Arab dignity. Yasir 'Arafat, this great leader who compared himself to Mandela—the leader who has defeated the British Empire and realized independence for South Africa, all the rights for his people, and the world's recognition, as opposed to a dwarf called 'Arafat—has succeeded in acquiring an area of six square

kms for the self-rule authority. This is the person who did not work in the interest of his own people who died in Lebanon.

Minister al-Amin added that Gaza and Jericho will not be able to absorb the mortal remains of the Palestinians. The Israelis have given 'Arafat cemeteries, not dignity or a state. This is one aspect of the negotiations. The other aspect which pertains to you in the south since you are suffering daily from the destruction and effects of the aggression, the Lebanese Government—that is the cabinet and the Chamber of Deputies—still clings to its previous stand which says that Resolution 425 is the basis for every solution. As regards the part on Lebanon which is outside the framework of Resolution 425, no one can accept just any solution. If we find a solution that guarantees the dignity, security, freedom, sovereignty, and independence of our country other than Resolution 425, then we will abandon Resolution 425 and adopt this new resolution. But so far, we have not found anything that can guarantee the dignity, security, freedom, sovereignty, and independence of Lebanon other than Resolution 425. This is why we adhere to it. It is a clear text and has very clear articles and paragraphs. It is a text that stipulates the full, comprehensive, and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Lebanese territories to the internationally acknowledged borders of 1949. Resolution 425 sets a mechanism for implementing this solution by sending the UN Interim Force in Lebanon to supervise the Israeli withdrawal and the deployment of the Lebanese Army in place of the withdrawing Israeli army. In the past, the Israelis along with the West in general and the Americans in particular have found the excuse that Lebanon, as a result of the civil war, lost its state, authority, and the Army and is not capable of implementing Resolution 425. In other words, there is yet no Army in Lebanon capable of implementing Resolution 425.

Minister al-Amin continues: Now the war has ended and there are no militias at all. If by militias they mean the Resistance, then we answer that the Resistance is not militias. It is Lebanon's peace-keeping force. It is the real peace force. The victory of the Resistance will undoubtedly be a victory for peace. The Resistance is not a militia nor does it have anything to do with militias.

Fadlallah on Gaza-Jericho, U.S. Role in Yemen

NC0805172994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Commenting on the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said that the agreement was a victory for Israel, not the Palestinians. Israel, Fadlallah pointed out, polished its public image and got many doors open in the Arab World. Dazzled by the agreement, some Arabs are opening their doors to Israel and hastening to normalize relations with it even before the latter makes any overture.

Fadlallah added: The Arab world is under a spell. Israel is not offering the Arabs much. The enemy's prime minister told a Qatari newspaper: We want to be stronger than the Arabs so that the latter may understand that they cannot get anything from us except through negotiations.

This, Fadlallah said, means that America helped Israel militarily so as to force the Arabs to make concessions. America wanted to deprive the Arabs of any clout they may use against Israel.

Therefore, this agreement has no legitimacy. We believe that the nation should hold firm to its principles, because once we start making concessions we will never stop. We might even lose more land.

France once saw Algeria as French territory. America may come to see the Gulf as U.S. territory. We recently read that a U.S. official visited Yemen and no sooner was he gone than the war broke out there. We in Lebanon are used to such visits by U.S. officials, who are adept at playing a double game. This double game, long known to us in Lebanon, has just started in Yemen.

Hizballah Derides Israeli Conditions on Resistance

NC0605171494 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 22 Apr 94 p 3

[Excerpt] Hizballah has issued the following statement in response to the enemy's demands calling for striking at the Resistance forces in the south and in the occupied territories:

The conditions set by the enemy leaders and their demand to disarm the Resistance whether in the south or in the occupied territories reveal the extent of the enemy's concern over the effectiveness of the Resistance and its fighters in dealing blows to the enemy's security status and occupation presence.

Although the enemy's conditions reveal a blatant Zionist intransigence that is politically and militarily supported by the United States, they demonstrate the reality of the enemy's chaos and confusion. The Zionist leaders have been diligently trying to convince their settlers that they can play simultaneously the games of force, negotiation, and superiority under the slogan of security that is unshakable and invincible.

The statement adds: While these conditions demonstrate the increasing Zionist deadlock, the enemy might yet try to end this deadlock through the readiness of some parties to discuss these conditions, as happened in the case of the representatives of the Palestinian Islamic Resistance in Jordan.

The statement believes that the enemy's conditions are aimed at making the Arab countries play the role of police in defending its security without changing its policy of aggression.

The statement reiterates Hizballah's outright rejection of these conditions and calls for confronting them firmly

and forcibly. The statement warns against suspicious voices that are trying to depict the recent confrontations in the south and the subsequent Zionist-Lahdist attacks as internal feuding and sectarian sedition.

The statement adds that the bombardment of Sidon and the atrocities against the inhabitants of 'Aramta represent a Zionist criminal act. The killing of some Lahdist agents by the Resistance men is only a link in the chain of the honorable national responsibilities and duties. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Criticizes Oman for Hosting Israelis

NC0605184394 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 22 Apr 94 p 3

[Excerpt] Hizballah considers the participation of an official Zionist delegation at a conference on water in Oman a grave and fatal step encouraging the enemy in its aggression and absolving it of its heinous crimes.

The party stressed that cooperation with the Zionist enemy "accelerates the collapse of the Arab bond and the common Arab concepts of security, economy, politics, and even culture and history." It warned that the Arabs will pay for this policy, as their dignity, rights, independence, economy, and identity will be violently crushed and confiscated by an enemy wearing the cloak of a cooperative friend.

In a statement, Hizballah viewed the participation of an official Zionist delegation at a water conference in Oman as a move within the context of the Arab regimes' failure to take a position concerning the boycott of Israel.

The statement said: "Showing readiness for cooperation with the Zionist enemy while it perpetrates the most horrible crimes against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples only encourages this enemy to continue its aggression and exonerates it for its heinous crimes. Oman's step is one of the wrong and fatal steps that some Arab regimes, urged and encouraged by the United States, began to take to bypass the facts and diktats of the historical conflict with the Zionists, to remove the evidence of the crime, and to open the region's doors to an onslaught of normalization that will subject all the region's capabilities to American and Zionist tutelage and domination. [passage omitted]

Lebanese-Syrian Summit Prompted by U.S. Message

PM0605133094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 May 94 p4

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Lebanese-Syrian Summit Held Suddenly in Damascus After U.S. Message to President al-Hirawi"]

[Excerpts] Beirut, London, Damascus—Yesterday attention was focused on the Lebanese-Syrian summit held in Damascus and the investigation of crimes committed against the state's internal security and related reactions. [passage omitted]

The arrangements for the summit were made after a meeting held between Lebanese President al-Hirawi and U.S. Ambassador in Beirut Mark Hambley.

Responsible Syrian sources in Damascus have stated that the two presidents discussed and held consultations on the new developments in the region and the results of Christopher's visit and the Israeli proposals and ideas he brought with him on the peace process, withdrawals from the Golan, dismantling of the settlements, and especially the Lebanese question. They also discussed the position of the two countries regarding the current contacts for the resumption of the negotiations in Washington, which is what Christopher is now working for, particularly since the final signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The two sides also reviewed the situation in Lebanon and bilateral relations. The arrival of President al-Hirawi, Speaker Birri, and Prime Minister al-Hariri was sudden and came after a meeting in Beirut between President al-Hirawi and the U.S. ambassador who delivered a message to him from Washington on the peace process. According to Lebanese sources, the message dealt with the situation in southern Lebanon and called on Lebanon to seek a settlement with Israel, disarm Hizballah, and put an end to the Lebanese resistance against Israel and its collaborators.

Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi reaffirmed coordination of their positions and effective moves to face the negative consequences of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The sources believe that the U.S. message upset the Lebanese leaders who immediately went to Damascus to discuss the situation. The message warned that Israel might continue its scorched-earth policy and carry out more score-settling operations unless the Lebanese officials quickly cool the situation in the south and unless they rejoin the peace process. [passage omitted]

Japanese Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit

Kakizawa Arrives in Damascus

OW0605140294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1300 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Damascus, May 6 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa on Friday [6 May] flew to Damascus from Amman for talks with Syrian President Hafiz Al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the final leg of his weeklong Middle East swing.

Kakizawa will hold discussions with Faruq on Friday night prior to his talks with Al-Asad on Saturday, Japanese officials said.

Kakizawa is in Syria on a tour that has already taken him to Egypt, Israel, the West Bank town of Jericho and Jordan.

Al-Shar', Kakizawa Hold Talks

JN0705095494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] A round of official talks was held today at the Foreign Ministry between a Syrian delegation led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and a Japanese delegation led by Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa. The meeting was attended by Raslan 'Allush, assistant foreign minister, and the heads of the Foreign Ministry's Economic, Organizational, and Asia Departments. On the Japanese side, the meeting was attended by (Takaya Sodo), director of the Middle East and Africa Department; (Hiroshi Hirabayashi), director of the Economic Cooperation Department; and the Japanese ambassador in Damascus.

Discussions touched on the situation in the region and developments in the Middle East peace process. In this regard, the two sides underlined their countries' desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and international legitimacy.

They also discussed the ties of cooperation and friendship between Syria and Japan and means of improving them in all fields. The two sides underlined their desire to strengthen these ties. In this regard, the two sides agreed to meet tomorrow on the level of experts to discuss economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Japanese minister and his delegation arrived in Damascus at noon today. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the heads of the Foreign Ministry's Asia and Protocol Departments, and the Japanese ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

Mr. Kakizawa made a statement to the SANA in which he praised the important political and economic position Syria occupies and the rich heritage from which it draws for its present and future. He praised Syrian-Japanese

ties, which have seen tangible progress in recent years, stressing the need to bolster these ties in the future, particularly in the field of economic cooperation.

Regarding the peace process and Japan's role in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, Kakizawa said: Japan has made a tangible effort to achieve security and peace in the world, both through its contributions to the UN budget and the disarmament and nuclear nonproliferation efforts.

He praised Syria's role and position in the Middle East and its role in finding the climate needed to establish just and comprehensive peace in the region, which cannot be achieved without Syria and its central role. He said: Japan supports the ongoing peace process and believes this process can be activated for the benefit of the peoples of the region.

Asked about the prospect for Japan's admittance as a permanent member to the UN Security Council, Kakizawa said: This quest is being supported by many countries in the world. Japan considers this support an evidence of these countries' appreciation of Japan's role in the international arena.

Further on al-Shar'-Kakizawa Talks

OW0705011394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0059 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Damascus, May 6 KYODO—Syria's Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa on Friday [6 May] that Syria is negative about joining multilateral peace talks in the Middle East peace process at the present stage.

In a 105-minute meeting with al-Shar', Kakizawa urged Syria to join the multilateral talks, Japanese officials said. Al-Shar', however, told Kakizawa that Syria will be pleased to join the talks if peace is achieved. But the talks will be vulnerable if peace is not achieved, al-Shar' was quoted as saying. Al-Shar' hinted at Damascus' position to demand a complete return of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

The Syrian foreign minister also argued that Mideast problems must be settled in line with UN Security Council resolutions that stipulate the inviolability of territories for all Mideast countries, the officials said. Al-Shar' offered his "personal support" for Japan's bid to obtain a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, saying that he will recommend the Syrian government to show support.

Kakizawa flew to Damascus from Amman on Friday.

Kakizawa Asks al-Asad To Join Peace Talks

OW0705123594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1157 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Damascus, May 7 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa on Saturday [7 May] asked Syrian President Hafiz Al-Asad to join multilateral talks in the Middle East peace process, Japanese officials said.

During the 30-minute meeting, Kakizawa told Al-Asad that he is looking forward to a positive proposal to facilitate further Israeli steps in the peace talks, the officials said.

But they did not disclose immediately how Al-Asad responded. On Friday, Syria's Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told Kakizawa that Syria is negative about joining the multilateral talks at the present stage.

Al-Asad expressed his support for Japan's bid to obtain a permanent seat in the U.N. Security Council, the officials said.

Al-Asad said he backs Japan's move, adding, "I expect Japan to tackle (international) issues from a fair position," they said. Kakizawa also asked Al-Asad to pay an early visit to Japan. The Syrian president promised to make efforts to meet Japan's request, the officials said.

The meeting with Al-Asad concluded Kakizawa's two-day visit to Syria on the final leg of a weeklong Middle East tour which took him to Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the Israeli-occupied territories .

He will return to Tokyo on Sunday.

Kakizawa on Nagano's Remarks

OW0705024494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0230 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Damascus, May 7 KYODO—Japan will convey to China and South Korea soon what Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata is thinking about Justice Minister Shigeto Nagano's remark on Japan's World War II campaign, Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa said Friday [6 May]. Kakizawa told Japanese reporters traveling with him that he has instructed Japan's embassies in Beijing and Seoul to inform the countries of Hata's thinking. Kakizawa said that the justice minister has taken back his remark that the 1937 Nanjing Massacre was a fabrication and that he thinks it wrong to define the war as a war of aggression by Japan.

Asked whether Nagano should leave the post of justice minister, Kakizawa said it is up to the prime minister to decide. Kakizawa also said he will convey his own idea to Hata after returning home Sunday.

Hata, at a news conference in Brussels on Friday, said he regrets Nagano's remarks but skirted the issue of whether he will seek Nagano's resignation. Hata said that he has reprimanded Nagano over the telephone for his remarks, which he characterized as "not appropriate." Hata, however, said, "I don't want to talk about (Nagano's) resignation at this stage."

In an interview with the mass-circulation daily MAINICHI SHIMBUN published Wednesday, Nagano, a former chief of staff of the Ground Self-Defense Force, said "the Nanjing incident was a fabrication," and "I

still think it wrong to define the war as a war of aggression (by Japan)." He called a news conference Friday and retracted the remarks.

Following the invasion of the then Chinese capital of Nanjing in December 1937, Imperial Japanese Army troops slaughtered more than 300,000 Chinese civilians, according to Chinese estimates. Japanese historians, however, tend to cite lower estimates. According to estimates given at the war crimes tribunal in Tokyo, about 42,000 civilians were killed in Nanjing and more than 100,000 civilians and prisoners of war were killed in the vicinity over the next six weeks.

Kakizawa, Delegation Depart

JN0705163094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] At 1130 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa and his accompanying delegation. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Japanese ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. Talks dealt with the situation in the Middle East and the peace process.

The Japanese minister paid tribute to Syria's positive role in launching the peace process. He noted the regional and international importance of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The two sides also discussed bilateral relations and the available means to develop them in the future.

The Japanese official left Damascus today after a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Japanese Minister in Damascus.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Kakizawa said: My visit to Syria was very successful. I had the privilege of meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian officials. He added that his talks dealt with the means to develop bilateral relations, which he described as very good. Kakizawa expressed the Japanese people's hopes that peace will be achieved in the Middle East. He also expressed Japan's willingness to cooperate and make a positive contribution to the peace process.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Forces Said To Capture Baghlan

LD0805163994 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The city of Baghlan, north of Kabul, was captured by forces of Borhanoddin Rabbani. According to a report by the Central News Unit, fierce fighting continues in Baghlan province between forces loyal to the president and the joint forces of General Dostam and Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Sources opposed to the government, while confirming that intense battles are continuing in the Baghlan province, blame the government forces for starting the fighting.

Another report indicates that fighting is intense in the vicinity of the town of Pol-e-Khomri in Baghlan province, and forces loyal to the president are trying to capture this town.

India

Alleged U.S. Preconditions for Rao Visit Denied

BK0705145394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] The talks between the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, on the 19th of this month in Washington are expected to cover a wide range of bilateral and international issues. While stating this, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that substantial preparations are being made to make the visit successful. He said the visit will lead to enhanced cooperation between the two countries. Denying reports in a section of the press about the reported ultimatum or preconditions being laid down by the USA for the visit of the prime minister, the spokesman said the report is full of errors and distortions.

U.S. Jets to Pakistan Would Spur 'Deep Concern'

BK0905112494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] India would have to reappraise the country's defense requirements and take adequate steps to safeguard its security in view of Pakistan's acquisition of sophisticated military equipment. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, told the Lok Sabha during question hour today that the government has conveyed that the U.S. proposal to transfer F-16 aircraft and other military equipment to Pakistan is a matter of deep concern for India. In a written reply, the minister said the U.S. Government has not pressed for nuclear capping by India as they have proposed to Pakistan as a condition to supplying F-16 fighters.

In another written reply, Mr. Salman Khurshid informed the house that the government has consistently maintained that it will not sign the NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty] in its present form because of its discriminatory nature. Referring to the efforts by the U.S. administration to modify the Pressler Amendment, the minister said latest reports indicate that these efforts have not been successful.

Prime Minister's Office Denies Missile Test Postponed

BK0805104694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office [PMO] has refuted report appearing in a section of the press that 13th test of surface-to-surface missile Prithvi, scheduled for the weekend, has been called off following instructions from PMO. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that there is no question of stopping the missile program and no such instructions were given. He said the report as well as the inference is absolutely false.

Iran

Protest Lodged Against U.S. Treatment of Delegation

LD0605130894 Tehran IRNA in English 1230 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA—The Islamic Republic last night condemned the American officials' mistreatment of Iranian delegation to the joint spring session of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) in Washington on April 22.

The Iranian interests section in Washington in a strongly-worded letter to the U.S. foreign affairs department through the Pakistani embassy, described as "insulting" the way customs officials at Washington airport behaved with Iranian Minister of Economy and Finance Morteza Mohammad-Khani and Governor of Central Bank Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli.

The U.S. Customs officials stopped the two senior Iranian diplomats, re-checked their suitcases and took photographs from them.

The letter voicing dissatisfaction, said the treatment not only violated the basic diplomatic principles but contradicted the U.S. Government's responsibility towards international organizations based in America.

It continued that U.S. Customs officials had repeatedly shown such disrespect for Iranian officials visiting America for international sessions.

The letter expected that the U.S. as a country which hosts international sessions would put an end to such practice.

Daily Says American Woman 'Probably a Spy'

NC0805103894 Paris AFP in English 0854 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 8 (AFP)—An American woman whipped in Iran two weeks ago on charges of promoting prostitution is "probably a spy", a radical newspaper charged here Sunday.

Mary Jones, 35, was picked up two weeks ago in the Shemiran neighborhood in northern Tehran allegedly in a drunken state. She was immediately given 80 lashes of the whip after being found guilty in a court of "promoting corruption."

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI daily charged however that new information on Jones had led the authorities to believe that she was also engaged in espionage.

She paid visits to the war front during the 1980-1988 conflict with Iraq and made "suspicious remarks" during interrogation after her arrest," it said.

However, a revolutionary court contacted by AFP denied there was any evidence of espionage activities against Jones, and that she had been arrested on corruption charges only.

The U.S. interests section at the Swiss embassy in Tehran declined to comment on the case.

The daily KEYHAN charged on Thursday that Jones, who has been here since 1983, came here "without identity papers and with the aim of corrupting the young in Iran."

KEYHAN said that Jones had been ordered to leave the country, but a judiciary official at the court refused to disclose if she had already been deported.

Iran banned the sale and consumption of alcoholic drinks after the 1979 Islamic revolution which toppled the late shah.

Commentary Examines U.S. Views on Peacekeeping

LD0705125394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0947 GMT 7 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] On the publication of a part of a secret document entitled "U.S. policy regarding the issue of forming UN peacekeeping forces," the United States has explicitly regarded any threats to its own vital interests as threats to international peace and security. After the scandal resulting from the presence of American troops in Somalia and their ignominious withdrawal from that country, the issue of the mode of American participation in the formation of peacekeeping forces was put on the agendas of the U.S. Administration and Congress. After months of debate and enquiry, in a document that has been published recently, the United States has called for the clarification of eight points before it makes any decisions on dispatching of UN forces. [sentence as heard]

According to the U.S. president's national security adviser, the most important of those eight issues is whether U.S. interests will be guaranteed by the intervention of UN forces and whether international peace and security will be violated or the two will be threatened. Moreover, the United States seeks a definite table for UN operations on the basis of common objectives and political-military strategy, and the determination of the number of forces and a precise assessment of operation expenses. The United States will participate only in operations that will achieve total success with a maximum number of 15 casualties.

The fact that the United States regards any threat to its own vital interests as a threat to international peace and security and then shows interest in participating in the formation of peacekeeping forces is in reality the most conspicuous aspect of change in the United Nations after the Cold War era.

The approach of the permanent members of the UN Security Council toward world issues indicates that not much remains of the UN Security Council as an international council; and in fact the Western Members of the Security Council act as a board of directors, only safeguarding their own interests. During the Cold War era, those states used to abstain from participating in UN peacekeeping activities in the form of an implicit agreement. But at the moment, following changes in international circumstances, they are considered as the eminent activist in UN peacekeeping. That presence and cooperation is indicative of the change in the role of UN peacekeeping forces.

Peacekeeping is a term related to the Cold War era, an era when the two sides of a conflict would come to an agreement after a long period of fighting and UN soldiers would take the responsibility of guarding that agreement as a buffer and impartial force. During that era, which lasted from 1948 to 1990, most UN soldiers were from north European states, Nepal, Sri Lanka, as well as some African states. But under present circumstances, the so-called peacekeeping force intervenes as one of the warring sides, oversees elections, purges police forces, armies, and government departments, and trains new forces; such that in operations in Cambodia the management of eight ministries was in the hands of those forces. In such a case peacekeeping is not the issue; the safeguarding of interests is the objective, and since those operations are selective, biased countries like America are attracted to them.

Under present world circumstances, because of the serious popular resistance in other countries in the face of interference by countries such as America in their internal affairs and public opinion, Western states that

are the permanent members of the UN Security Council benefit from UN operations as a cover for their hegemonic objectives.

Velayati Reports Results of Sarajevo Talks

LD0805171594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who had gone to Sarajevo in order to hold talks with the Bosnian officials and to open the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, returned to Tehran this evening.

In an interview with our correspondent, referring to the tripartite talks between Iran, Croatia, and Bosnia, Mr. Velayati said: Expansion of ties between Iran and Croatia will play a positive role to reduce the suffering of the Bosnian people.

Stressing the importance of agreement between the Muslims and the Croats and the signing of new agreements between Croatia and Bosnia, he went on: This agreement has strengthened the position of the Muslims in the confrontation against the Serbs.

Referring to the opening ceremony of the Iranian Embassy in Sarajevo attended by the president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mr. Velayati said: During the talks with the Bosnian president and other officials of that country, they thanked Iran for its constructive role and unstinting support for the people of Bosnia.

Mr. Velayati pointed out that the Serbs continue their aggression in other regions of the Republic of Bosnia. He warned the international community about the Serbs' new waves of aggressions in some regions of Bosnia, including Brcko.

Relays Praise of Iranian Role

LD0805193794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Dear listeners: As you have heard in the news bulletin, Mr. Velayati, foreign affairs minister of our country, returned to Tehran after visiting and meeting the authorities of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, as well as opening our country's embassy in Sarajevo. Our correspondent has carried out an interview with him in connection with his visit:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Please tell us what issues were discussed between you and the Bosnian authorities during your visit to Sarajevo.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We wanted to go on this visit for the last few months. But, the preparatory work that was to be carried out by the United Nations was not done. They informed us during the last few days that the United Nations had agreed. In our talks, the issue of opening the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Sarajevo, bilateral relations, and the recent changes between our relations and Croatia were discussed, taking into account the fact that the expansion of our relations with the Croatia will make a great contribution toward our relations with Bosnia.

During the last two years, the intention of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been to pave the way for reconciliation and cooperation between Croats and Muslims. Today, both the Croats and Bosnian Muslims know that the tripartite relations between us, the Croats, and Muslims have turned into such organized and secure relations, that the more these relations consolidate the more the chances of our cooperation and through us, that of other Islamic countries increases with the Bosnian Muslims.

Mr. Izetbegovic, in his talks, in his official talks, clearly specified and said that Iran has played a very crucial role in the destiny of Bosnia and this will be recorded in history later. But, Mr. Izetbegovic said, that what I can say that if it was not for Iran, Bosnia would have had a different destiny. The Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy was opened in the presence of Mr. Izetbegovic.

[Correspondent] In general, how do you describe the situation in Sarajevo, and how much of a positive effect the assistance given by the people of Iran will have on the spirit of the people of Sarajevo?

[Velayati] The destruction that has remained from the long-term aggression of the Serbs is an obvious sign of an all-round oppression that has been inflicted on the Muslim people of Sarajevo who up to now are under the full siege of the Serbs. However, the people enjoy a very high spirit. One can feel very easily the belief and devotion of the people to Islam and freedom of Bosnia among the people of Bosnia. Concerning Iran, as I have mentioned, the people are united in their views that the Islamic Republic of Iran is their most honest defender and supporter. They do not mention this from an analytical viewpoint, but they say it plainly if anyone asks the people and officials of Bosnia. [end recording]

President Phones FRG's Kohl on Bosnia

LD0605172194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Today, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a telephone conversation with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl talked to him about the latest situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and ways of expanding political and economic relations between Iran and Germany.

In this telephone conversation, the president expressed his anxiety about the repetition of the tragedy of Gorazde by the Serbs and stressed the need for a decisive and serious approach by the countries of the world and international organizations toward the Serb aggressors.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also expressed his hope that the two countries will have a more active participation in the second economic and political development plan of Iran.

Mr. Kohl also said that the exchange of political and economic delegations between the two countries to study the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina and find new ways for the expansion of cooperation between the two countries has always enjoyed the support and attention of the German Government.

Majles Speaker Criticizes Israeli-PLO Accord

LD0805085894 Tehran IRNA in English 0817 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA—Majles speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri Sunday [8 May] lambasted the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement between the Zionist regime and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) last Wednesday and stressed that the Palestinian nation would not give in to abjection.

Speaking at the open sessison of the Islamic consultative assembly (majles), he termed the compromising trend of talks between Yasir 'Arafat and the Zionist regime as well as the signing of the Gaza-Jericho compromise deal as gradual humiliation of the PLO leaders and a bitter and regrettable development for the world of Islam and the muslims.

"It is crystal clear that the heroic nation of Palestine will continue their fight against occupiers of al-Quds and repulse the usurpers from al-Quds to materialize the divine promises," he stressed.

Turning to the victory of the African National congress in the all-race presidential elections in South Africa, Nateq-Nuri described it as a great and sweet event for all nations especially for the people of South Africa.

Congratulating the ANC leader Nelson Mandela and the South African nation on the victory, he expressed hope that Iran and South African relations would expand in all fields.

Rabin Moscow Visit Seen in Middle East Context

NC0605130994 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 26 Apr 94 p 12

[Commentary by M. Pay'edar: "Rabin in Moscow"]

[Excerpts] The Zionist regime's prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, arrived in Moscow on 24 April on a 4-day visit. This is the first visit to Russia by a high-level official of the Zionist regime, ostensibly in response to Kozyrev's visit to Tel Aviv last week. During his visit, Kozyrev had reminded the Israeli officials that despite its support for the Middle East peace process and an end to long-standing animosity between the Arabs and Israel, he is not satisfied with the actions taken so far and the prevailing trend of the talks.

Diplomatic sources resident in the Middle East state that Kozyrev had told Rabin during his visit to occupied Palestine that it is unacceptable to accord Russia a second-line role in the Middle East peace dealings. The same sources state that Kozyrev's unexpected behavior toward the Israeli officials was a result of the Zionist regime's cold reception to Russia's proposals regarding the future of peace in the Middle East. No official report has been released on the nature of these proposals, but Israeli sources state that Kozyrev had presented the following five recommendations to the Israeli officials in order to expedite the peace trend in the Middle East:

1. Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.
2. Halting construction of settlements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip until the fate of these two areas becomes clear in the peace talks.
3. Continuation of the talks in Moscow.
4. Russian assistance in lobbying for recognition of Israel by Syria and in persuading the latter to join the peace talks.
5. Motivating the Syrian leaders to end what Kozyrev referred to as support for hardline factions and anti-Zionist resistance groups in the region.

Even though Kozyrev's proposals were received with indifference by Israeli officials, Kozyrev asked Rabin to visit Moscow to deepen bilateral relations and for a better understanding of Russia's stance.

The importance of Tel Aviv-Moscow relations is worth assessing from two aspects: First, the relations and their inherent importance; and second, viewed in the context of the Middle East crisis. [passage omitted]

Israel has realized, for better or worse, that without taking Russia's viewpoint into account, no kind of peace process will be successful. Regardless of whether Tel Aviv has reached this conclusion in view of Syria's role in the Arab Middle East or because of the traditional role of the Russians in the Middle East, the Zionist regime's leaders have been motivated to accept changes in view of developments in the region that will in turn make them give certain concessions to the other side. What the privileges will be and whether it is possible to end the current impasse in the Middle East, only time will tell.

Independent news sources in Moscow have reported that in the course of his talks with the Russian president and prime minister, Rabin said that if Moscow does not revise its military treaty with Syria, withdrawal from the Golan Heights is out of the question. By supporting the anti-Israeli groups, Syria has proved that it is not serious about the peace talks.

The newspaper MA'ARIV, the mouthpiece of the Zionist regime's foreign ministry, referring to the above issue commented that Tel Aviv believes that the sale of Russian weapons to Syria has had a negative effect on the peace talks. [passage omitted]

For Russia to halt arms sales to Syria merely at Israel's behest or for it to place all its eggs in the U.S. basket

without any major concessions would be an act of political naivete that seems quite unlikely. It seems certain that this will be a complicated and prolonged process and a test for Russian diplomacy in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

This is why Rabin's trip to Moscow has not causes any concern among the Damascus leadership. Hafiz al-Asad is quite confident that Russia will not bestow any major privileges on Israel at the expense of its own interests or leave Syria at the mercy of a turbulence-ridden peace. [passage omitted]

Thus, Rabin's visit to Moscow may not herald any major changes in the current trend of Middle East talks. Besides, changes are not foreseeable. What is certain is that the anti-Zionist resistance and opposition to the growth of U.S. influence in the region will have a remarkable effect on the current treacherous trend. This opposition and resistance will not be limited to Damascus' perspective or viewpoint; even the Zionist regime's officials have admitted this. They have acknowledged that despite its influence among the Lebanese and Palestinian groups, Syria does not have tight control over their actions.

It is a fact that the green light from Russia and other regional countries to Israel will not terminate the resistance. One should concede that in view of the expansionist nature of Israel, which overtly conflicts with the people of the region who have been disillusioned by the contemptuous attitude of the United States, the Middle East will witness a new wave of violence and insecurity in the future.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Interference in Yemen

LD0705150194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Iran has expressed deep regret about internal clashes in Yemen.

A spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry today called on the warring sides in Yemen to maintain their self-control, observe Islamic principles, and find peaceful ways to solve their differences.

He also condemned foreign interference in the escalation of crisis in Yemen and announced the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to help towards solving the differences and maintaining the Yemen unity.

Ties With Turkey, Hashemi Ankara Visit Viewed

NC0605173494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 3 May 94

[Unattributed commentary: "Deputy Foreign Minister Muhammad Hashemi's Visit to Ankara"]

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Muhammad Hashemi held separate talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Ozdem Sanberk, Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, and Minister of Internal Affair Nahit Mentese on bilateral relations in Ankara on 2 May. The sides stressed the need to have bilateral relations further improved and described the level of existing relations between Turkey and Iran as good and constructive. During his three-day visit, Hashemi is expected to hold talks with the Turkish officials on important regional issues, the situation in the Islamic world, and the crisis in Bosnia- Herzegovina.

The relations between Turkey and Iran, which have many common historical and cultural ties, have been placed on a sound basis. The factor that requires the two countries to further strengthen their relations is the question of safeguarding their common interests in ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization]. Political and economic experts are convinced that the relations between Iran and Turkey should be viewed from three angles. Compared with the past, the economic relations between the two countries within ECO's framework are rather important for them. That is why they are maintained at a favorable level.

The trade and economic cooperation between the two countries in ECO's committees has significantly contributed toward the improvement of their relations. As far as the political aspect of their relations is concerned, Iran and Turkey need to take measures to defend their common border more effectively than in the past. In view of the fact that that matter has to be carefully followed, the two countries concluded important agreements on terrorism and border security during the past one and a half years. They have done so in accordance with the principle of noninterference in each other's internal affairs. Regarding regional issues, Turkey, Iran, and Syria have held several summits on the question of northern Iraq. The outcome of the summits and the bilateral relations between Iran and Turkey show the importance they attach to the establishment of peace and security in the region.

Iran and Turkey are two important ECO and ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] members. As such, they have many opportunities and resources to further improve their bilateral relations. In view of that, Hashemi's visit to Turkey should be assessed as the outcome of the effort the Turkish and Iranian officials have made to further improve and strengthen the relations between the two countries as much as possible.

Joint Statement With South Africa on Ties Issued

LD0605124394 Tehran IRNA in English 1219 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA—Iran and South Africa are to resume bilateral relations from May 10 after 15 years of severed ties, following the historic victory of the black majority in the country's first multi-racial elections this week which put an end to apartheid and its racist policies. In a joint statement released simultaneously in Tehran and Johannesburg today, the two sides announced their readiness for resumption of ties after

talks between South African Foreign Ministry officials and the Iranian interests section at the Swiss embassy in the South African capital.

In Tehran, a foreign ministry spokesman congratulated the South African nation on the victory of the African National Congress (ANC) which polled 66.9 percent of the votes counted.

Iran broke ties with South Africa after the triumph of the Islamic revolution in 1979. Switzerland had been looking after the interests of the two countries since then. Iran, which was South Africa's main oil supplier in the time of the defunct shah, stopped all oil supplies to the racist regime after the revolution.

Thereafter the Islamic Republic supported the South African people's struggle against racial discrimination and sided fully with liberation groups at international forums.

Commentary Previews New Links With South Africa

LD0705212394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 7 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Following the victory of the African National Congress, ANC, in the all race elections and the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa, the Islamic Republic of Iran and South Africa have decided to officially resume diplomatic ties with effect from 10 May. The decision was announced in a joint communique which was released on Friday.

The two countries' decision about the resumption of political ties, which came following talks between officials of the South African Foreign Ministry and members of the office protecting the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran in that country, brings to an end a 15-year-old complete rupture of Iran's ties with South Africa.

Iran's ties with South Africa were severed following the victory of the Islamic revolution and in protest against that country's racist policies.

The Islamic Republic of Iran cut off all economic and political ties with that country placing on top of its foreign policy priorities its support for the struggle of the South African nation for achieving independence.

The long and difficult struggle of the South African nation has finally brought to an end the more than three-century-old white domination over that country.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while welcoming the trend of return of peace, together with independence and restoration of the rights of the black majority, considers the recent developments in South Africa as being to the removal of obstacles in the way of establishing political and economic ties with that country and has announced its willingness for the resumption of full diplomatic ties with South Africa. [passage as received]

From a political point of view, the recent developments in South Africa, which have provided the ground for all the races to have direct and active participation in running the country's affairs and making political and economic decisions, are significant in that they can have positive impact and consequences within the foreign policy and regional framework for South Africa's future ties with other countries.

In this connection, the resumption of Islamic Republic of Iran's economic and political ties with South Africa, the groundwork of which was prepared during Mr. Mandela's visit to Tehran last January, is an appropriate response to the victory of the black majority in that country, and is a confirmation of the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always and will continue to support the will of the nations in deciding about the own fate.

As the rupturing of ties with the South African apartheid regime 15 years ago and the resumption of ties with South Africa now indicate, Iran does not have the slightest doubt in making political decisions in this regard.

Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayer Sermons

Decries 'Arafat 'Treason,' Serbs

NC0605163294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1125 GMT 6 May 94

[Friday prayers sermon by His Eminence Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, in Tehran on 6 May—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, and compassionate. Muslim brothers and sisters everywhere: A glance at the history of Islam shows that the results of pressure by Islam's enemies run counter to their expectations and serve to boost Islam's promotion and progress. And injustices have drawn people's attention to it. This is why Islam has made its way and assumed its position in the world.

The Karbala' incident took place in the first century of the hegira. This is the first proof of what we say. Then there were the crusades in the middle ages and today we have the Serbian crimes and their savage war and ethnic cleansing.

The other issue to which we draw the attention of the Islamic world is this: Had the events of Karbala' not occurred and the corrupt ruler not committed those crimes against the followers of the prophet, smearing the history of Islam, the world would not have needed an advocate of culture, freedom, democracy, and human rights.

The world, particularly Europe, today claims to be very civilized and to have progressed. But disregarding international organizations, the Serbians are committing the ugliest and most tragic crimes against the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, including killing, torturing, burning, destroying, and slaughtering women, old people, and children. These acts shame humanity. Members of the United Nations and the Security Council have been turning a blind eye to these crimes and even supporting them in practice in a manner that pains the human conscience. What do you think? Is the result what the enemy wants or is it in favor of Islam? Islam is spreading against their will.

They usurped Palestine, displaced its people, and tortured and killed its people. What do you think will happen ultimately? Will the enemy achieve his objective or will he force the Muslims to get ready to regain their strength over their enemies? History shows that when the Muslims became aware of the reasons for their weakness and defeat and followed the path of struggle, they triumphed over the enemy. When they did not care what happened to them, they remained for years the prisoners of the enemy.

Muslim brothers and sisters: The conditions in the world today are not the same as before. We must today defeat the enemy through unity, new methods, and information. Meetings and decisions by officials are useless these days. The oppressed Bosnian and Palestinian peoples stood fast in the face of the Serbs and the Zionists. In doing so, they dealt a devastating blow to the United Nations and the Security Council. The Islamic Conference Organization intervened. Work is continuing secretly and openly.

'Arafat's treason and his recent signing of the disgraceful agreement in Egypt have escalated the wave of strikes and armed confrontation. General mourning was declared. The signing of the agreements in Washington and Cairo had no effect, thanks to the Palestinian resistance. This is the age of peoples, not governments. It is time to regain the people's rights and defend virtues, not time for laziness and indifference. We are confident that we will triumph ultimately, thanks to the vigilance and unity of the Muslims, God willing.

Domestic, Foreign Issues Viewed

LD0605173094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 May 94

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Yazdi, head of the judiciary, in Tehran on 6 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] In this sermon I have seven or eight issues to which I wish to refer. Time is short, and I will try to refer to them briefly in view of their importance.

First, I wish to thank the honorable deputies of the Majles, especially the members of the Judicial Committee of the Majles, for approving the bill concerning the general and revolutionary courts, as well as approving the bill which allows ladies to be employed within the judicial system in advisory positions if they possess the necessary qualifications.

As regards the first issue and the bill dealing with general and revolutionary courts, it was the realization of a 10 or 15-year wish. We spent years working on it. Thanks be to God, it was recently approved by the Majles. The Guardian Council has also announced its final approval. The bill has been returned to the Majles and the Majles will, naturally, implement those amendments proposed by the Guardian Council within the next few sessions and will submit it to us for implementation.

The new system will make the procedure for court cases much shorter, it will eliminate many shortcomings, will involve direct submission to the judge, and will eliminate many conspiracies and plots which were hatched by the accused during the interval when the case was submitted by the prosecutor's office to the court and all the difficulties it gave rise to. It will also make many savings in time, in human resources and in procedure. This bill has many positive points and a great deal of expert work has been expended on it. [passage omitted]

The second issue is a form of praise and gratitude as well as being informative. Our country's honorable tribes have a particular and well known worth and value indicated in their life history, particularly in their defense of the country and its borders. Their pure and sincere beliefs, particularly in some parts of the country, regarding the family of the prophet is sometimes more intense than those of urban dwellers. [passage omitted] Unfortunately, there were, and are, traditions among them which clearly contradict religious and civil law. In our visit to Khuzestan we discussed the issue with senior officials and, thank God, significant steps were taken. I can now announce that there is cooperation among judicial, political, security and religious officials, as well as many people of influence and respect in the Khuzestan Province in the struggle against things contradicting religious and civil law, including the practices of Nahveh [meaning unknown], Fasl [meaning unknown], marriage of exchange [nekah-e sheghar], sharing of blood money [diyeh], and murders committed in the name of honor. It would not be wrong for me to say here that a father or a brother would kill his daughter, would then give himself up and say: I am the owner of blood and satisfied. And that would be the end of that. But we said this was not right. Although the Lord of the Universe has given the right to the owner of blood, it has also given a right to the government. Such practices violate the security of the system and the system can fight such fathers and brothers or cousins, who are mentioned in the prohibition debate. Extensive discussions and many meetings were held locally and in Tehran. Standing here today I can announce the good news that the good Khuzestan tribal leaders, in cooperation with senior

officials, have signed pledges which were prepared. The simplest things do not significantly contradict religious law but might violate law and order—things such as shooting during some of their celebrations. But from our point of view the sensitive issues are regarding obvious acts violating religious law, in particular, murders. There are things contradicting religious law in the division of blood money, judgment, prohibition, marriage of minors and other things. After the awareness of religious leaders influential among the tribes and the tribal leaders, and cooperation among all officials, we reached the point of a obtaining pledge to abandon such things. Should there be any violations, the security, intelligence, political and religious leaders are responsible for the transfer of the matter to the judicial body, and the judiciary is responsible for dealing severely with the matter. There were a couple of minor issues recently which were dealt with severely and which, thank God, have had positive result. I hope the good, pious and brave Khuzestan tribes defending our country are good examples for other tribes in other provinces of the country, and that we will not hear any violations of law among them. But I repeat that should there be any such things, the judiciary will not show the slightest mercy to any authority whatsoever. [audience chants approval] [passage omitted]

The atrocities that the Serbs perpetrated in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the methods that international authorities, the United Nations, the Security Council, adopted... [pauses] every day they witnessed new atrocities, but instead of embarking on actions which might stem them, they sometimes gave the green light; they sometimes even gave support. They imagine they can convince public opinion. In reality, it must be pointed out that their recent behavior has dealt the biggest blow to the reputation of the United Nations and the Security Council. That reputation will not be restored so soon.

We call on the Islamic Conference Organization to make even more effort than it has already done—which is praiseworthy, especially the contact group—and at least get to a point where the sanctions against the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina are lifted and the right of defense—which is a natural right—is given to them.

The people of our country have given much service and assistance. As the exalted leadership—may God almighty assist and safeguard him—has said, that is our duty. He even referred to all its aspects. In fairness, the people of Iran have given assistance and they will continue to give their assistance. We are sure that Islam will be victorious. [passage omitted]

The compromising accord between 'Arafat and the Zionists is best interpreted in the following way: Two individuals placing their signatures on a piece of paper, accompanied by false ceremonies, in a country which itself is beset by its own internal opponents and severe problems. Inviting several personalities and placing two signatures on a piece of paper in their presence cannot trample on the rights of a nation.

Mr 'Arafat is not the Palestinian nation. He cannot do whatever he wishes in the name of the Palestinian nation. We saw that when the accord was signed, a black day was declared; public mourning was declared; there was a call for a strike and the actions of opponents became more severe. We are certain that the combatant, brave, alive and awake people of our Palestine, especially the intifadah, will never be silent in the face of such policies of aliens, and they will continue their struggle until they regain their usurped lands and until rights have been restored to their rightful owners. [audience chants: "God is great," "Death to Israel," "Death to America"]

Please allow me; time is short and I have a couple of other topics to talk about and I do not want to keep you too long. South African combatants fought for almost 30 years against an inhumane regime that was senseless, unjust and even antireligious—apartheid and racism. The combatants overcame a government which ruled that land, aided and abetted by the West, and headed by America. We all heard about Mr. Mandela's victory. [passage omitted] We formally congratulate the people of South Africa and Mr. Mandela and his colleagues on their liberation and independence. We tell them: You are aware that such victories are achieved at a high cost, and naturally they should be well protected. The protection of such victories needs a great deal more work than what was needed for their achievement. We can take advantage of this issue and tell the brave Muslim Palestinian combatants that today is the day of nations; today is the day of the people; today is the day of rallies and the expressing of the peoples' agreement and disagreements. Governments can no longer consolidate their authority through pressure, oppression and agreements and, as I said, signatures on a piece of paper. You see that when our country's struggles become victorious, when various struggles achieve victory in various parts of the world, and recently, the struggles in South Africa achieved victory, then such accords which may be signed should not make you despondent. You should be confident that those who struggle for their rights will sooner or later become victorious.

Fortunately, as you are aware, our country has formally announced the re-establishment of relations, relations which were established a few months ago through the African National Congress, and we intend to expand relations between the two countries.

Recently a certain European country, which claims to have mature policies—Britain—has claimed, as it were, that Iranian security officials had contacts with Irish combatants, that this and that has happened. I am not concerned with what they said. As the official responsible for the country's judiciary I say to Britain's statesmen: If you are telling the truth, or have anything to say, give us your evidence. We will investigate it, and if it is true we will deal with it.

Such political moves to poison the political atmosphere between the two countries, and in the region and the

world, by relating a couple of false reports, are not worthy of a country which claims to have mature policies. Such actions are not proper. We are waiting to see if you have any proof to show us.

I had a few more things to say about the right of veto and other things relating to the judicial system, but since it is late and I have written a few lines in Arabic, with your permission, I will leave them for another time.

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